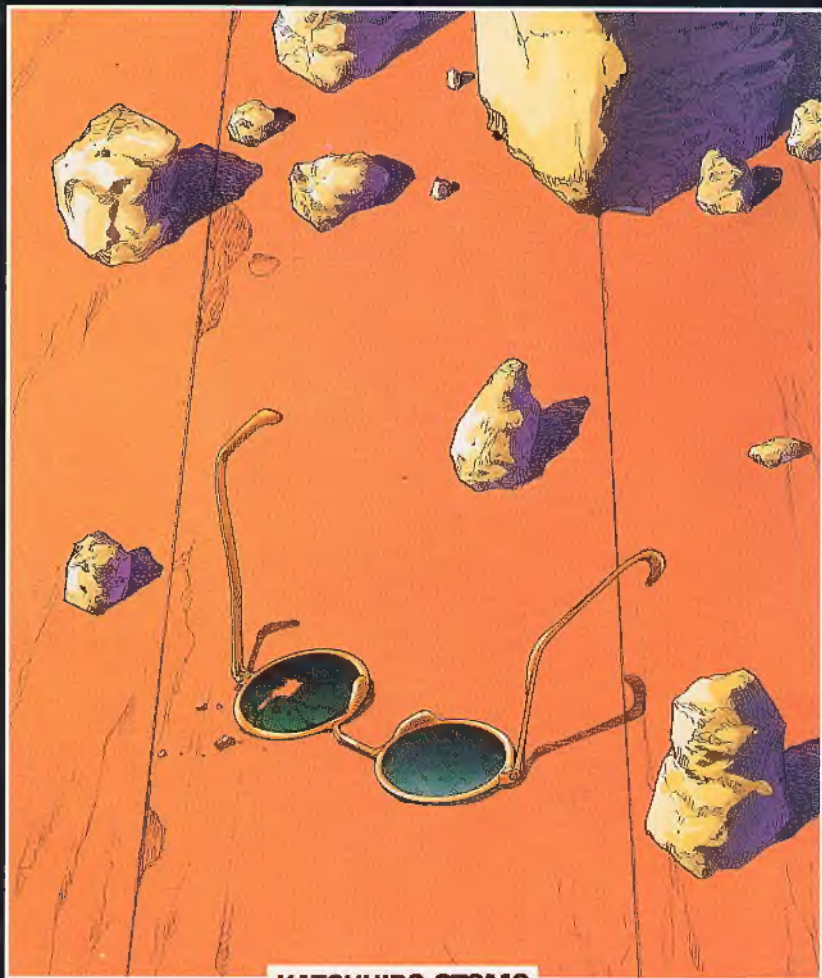


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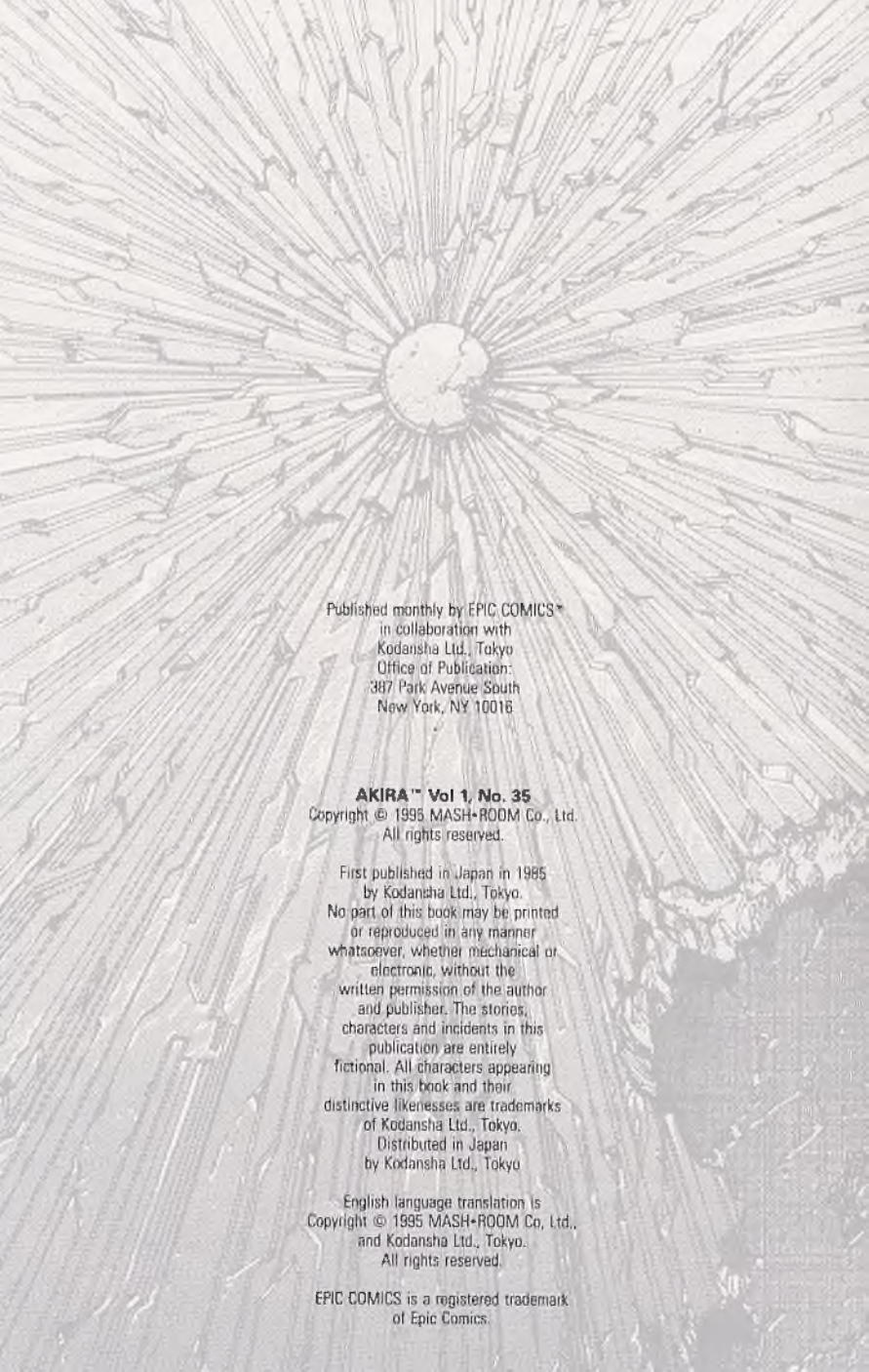
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KATSUHIRO OTOMO



Published monthly by EPIC COMICS®
in collaboration with
Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo
Office of Publication:
387 Park Avenue South
New York, NY 10016

AKIRA™ Vol 1, No. 35
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AKIRA

BY KATSUHIRO OTOMO

Chapter 35

FACE TO FACE

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE



2030. The world hovers on the brink of World War IV. **Kaneda**, one-time leader of a delinquent gang, is caught up in the aftermath of a power struggle between a Japanese military research organization — led by a man known only as the **Colonel** — and a resistance group whose members included **Kay**, **Ryu**, and a formidable woman

named **Chiyoko**.

The Colonel had a number of psychic children under his control. Each is identified by a number marked on the hand. Among them were **Kiyoko** and **Masaru**, **Numbers 25** and **27**. The blind **Lady Miyako** — **Number 19**, now heads a great religious cult. **Number 41** is **Tetsuo**, who lost his arm to a laser blast from the Colonel's military satellite **SOL**, and has used cybernetics and telekinesis to fabricate a prosthetic replacement. **Tetsuo** was Kaneda's dearest friend until he used his burgeoning powers to slaughter other members of their gang. Now, **Kaneda** is out for revenge.

Most powerful of all the children is **Number 28** — **Akira** — a docile and enigmatic boy who was placed in cryogenic sleep almost forty years ago, when, with a mental blast, he started the Third World War. He was recently reawakened by **Tetsuo**, and again he devastated the reconstructed city of **Neo-Tokyo**. Now Japan exists in a state of emergency. The forces of the army and the resistance are scattered, and the military's formidable caretaker robots patrol the streets.

In the western part of **Neo-Tokyo**, the **Great Tokyo Em-**



Akira



Chiyoko



The Colonel



Takashi



pire is formed, a monarchy with **Akira** on the throne and **Tetsuo** as his prime minister. Together the pair use their powers, organizing their subjects into fighting units to defend their land. Their headquarters is Neo-Tokyo's Olympic Stadium. To the east, **Lady Miyako** welcomes refugees to her shrine. In this, she is aided by **Kiyoko**, **Masaru**, and a number of loyal, psychic monks.

The **Empire** is infiltrated by teams of spies and commando units from the outside world, equipped with biochemical armaments which take a tremendous toll on Tetsuo's forces.

A fleet of foreign ships waits in Tokyo Bay, poised for action. Aboard an American naval vessel, an international conclave of scientists and one

Tibetan monk study the **Akira** phenomenon — which they've codenamed **Juvenile A**. One of the scientists — **Stanley Simmons** — goes ashore to implement a secret plan. The research team is certain that using military force against **Akira** and **Tetsuo** will only lead to disaster.

Meanwhile, **Kay** joins Miyako's forces in battle against **Tetsuo**, because **Kay** is a powerful medium, through whom the others can project their powers and strike as one. Tetsuo's powers have grown erratic. His body frequently bloats and expands, engulfing those who venture too close. The loss of control has grown worse since the murder of his gentle girlfriend, **Kaori**.

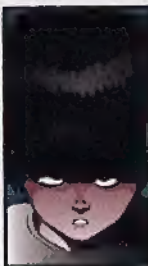
Kaneda teams up with **Kai**



Tetsuo



Nezu



Sakaki



Ryu



and **Joker** — a friend and a rival from his gang days. Using salvaged weapons the trio lead a force of refugees and street rats to help **Kay** in her battle with **Tetsuo**. As they fight, **Akira** looks placidly on.

Then, the international fleet in the bay sends fighter planes to rain death upon **Neo-Tokyo**, causing chaos among all the combatants. Enraged, **Tetsuo** teleports himself to space, seizing control of the orbiting laser cannon. He fires the weapon at the fleet, and then brings it crashing down upon the flagship, killing the commanders and forcing a mass evacuation of military personnel and the few scientists who survive.

Inland, Kay's friends and supporters are scattered, some of them badly injured. The **Colonel**, crippled by the strike,

aids **Kay**, as **Miyako** re-establishes her psychic bond with the girl. On the return to earth, **Tetsuo** finds Kaori's body.

Using his telepathic powers, he is able to contact the soul of his lost love, but he can only reach her spirit for a brief, painful moment. Griefstricken, he carries her underground to the cryogenic chamber where **Akira** once slept. Drawn by the similarity of their powers, **Akira** follows **Tetsuo**.

Along the way, he is joined by **Kaneda**, **Joker**, **Chiyoko** and **Ryu**. They prepare to make a stand in the bowels of the earth, where many of their comrades died.



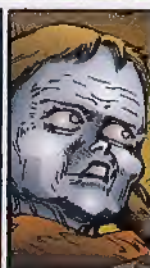
Kaori



Masaru

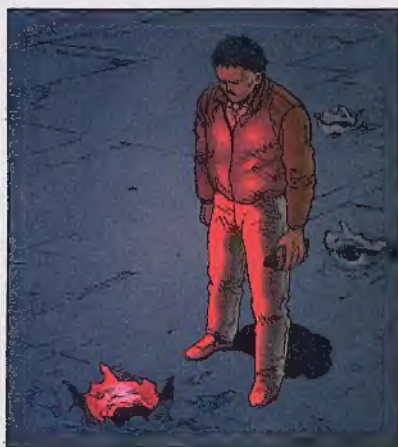
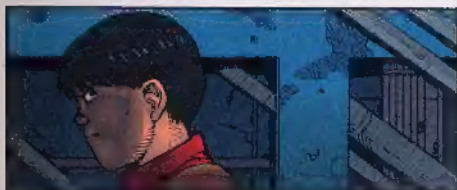
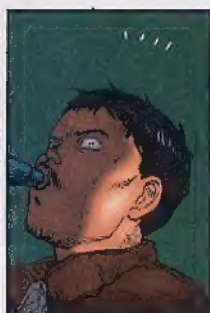
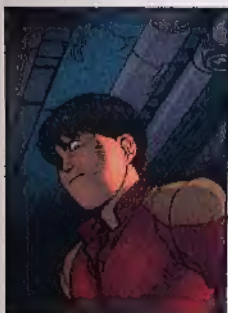


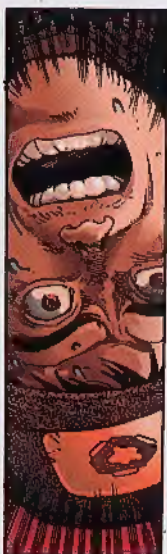
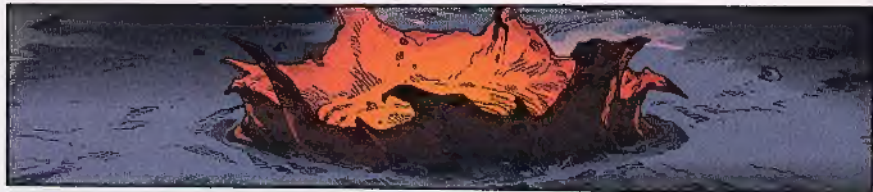
Kai

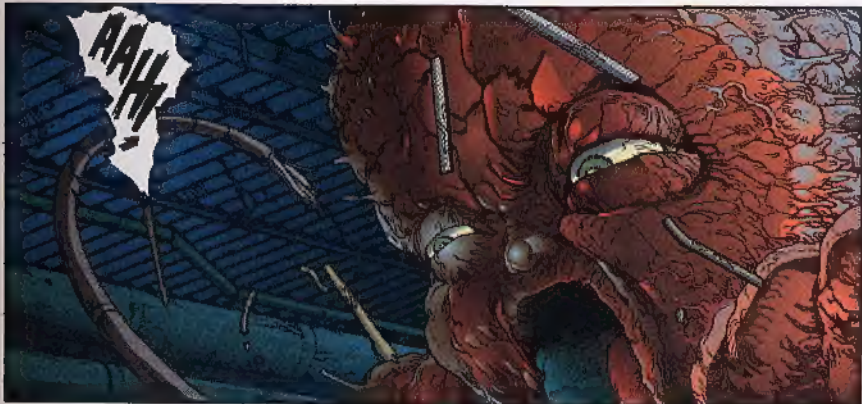


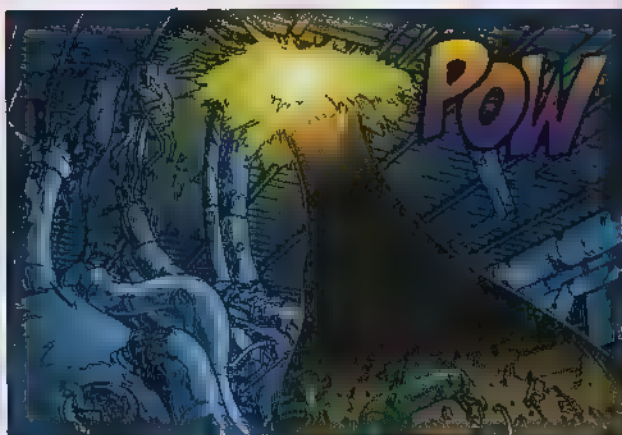
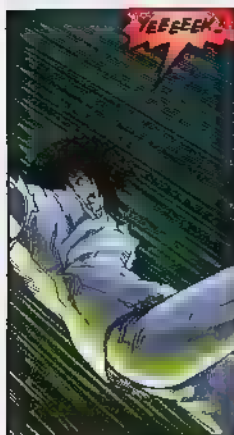
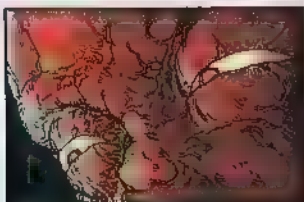
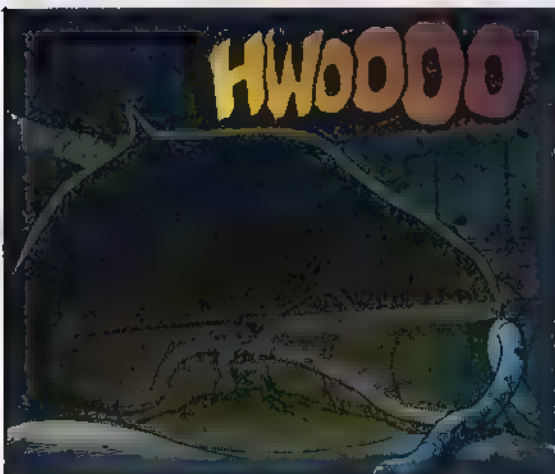
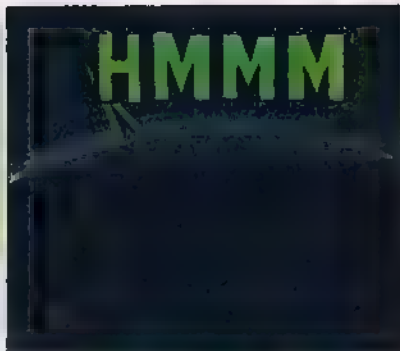
Kiyoko

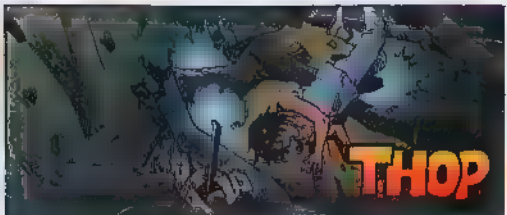
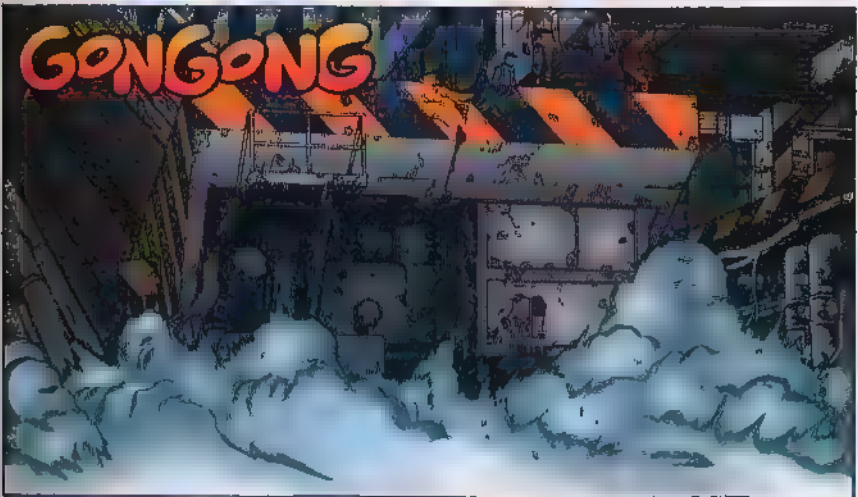
GONGGONGGONG

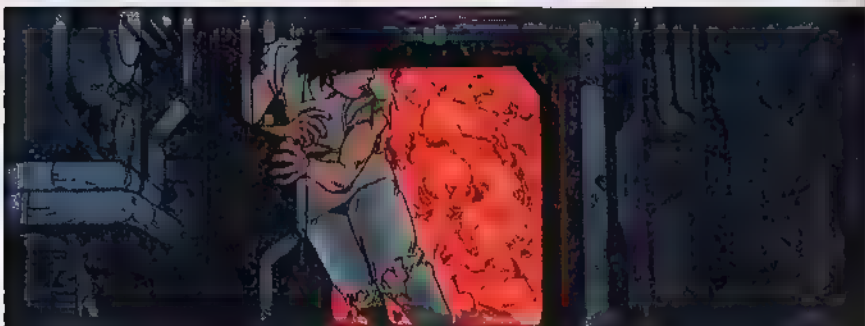
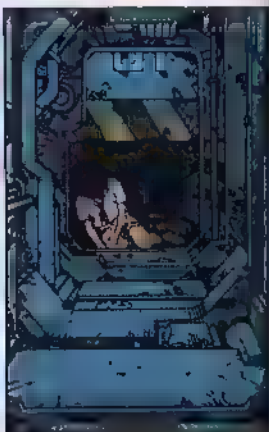
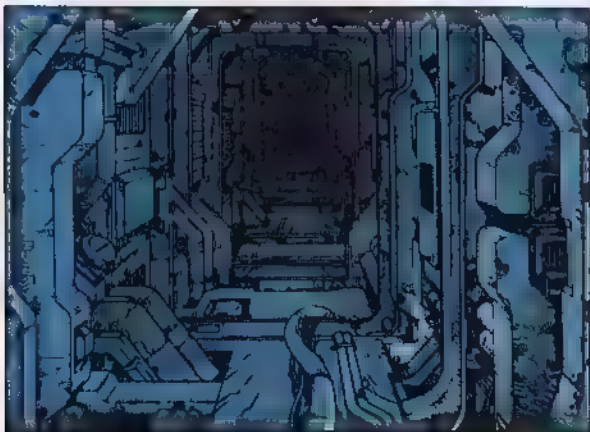


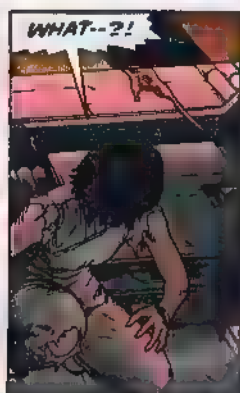
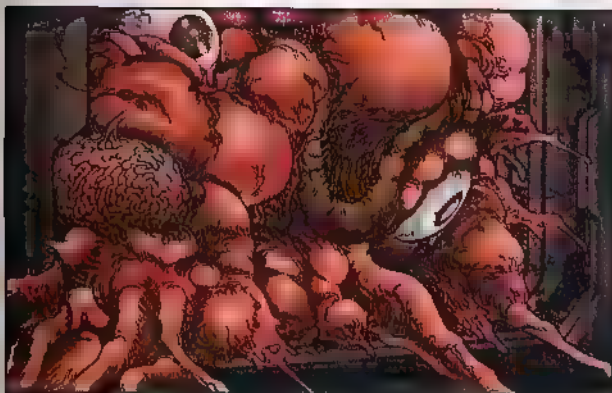
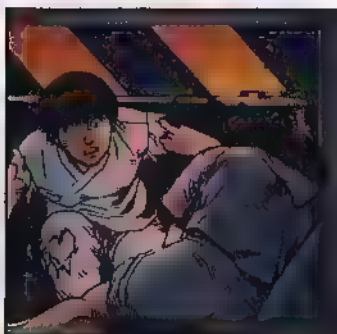
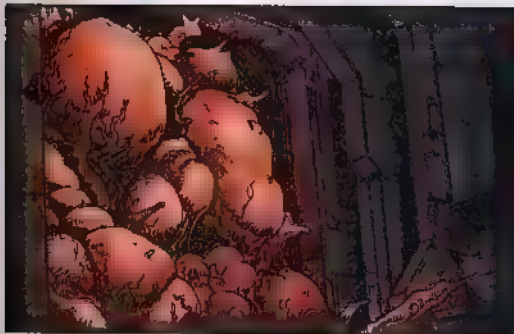












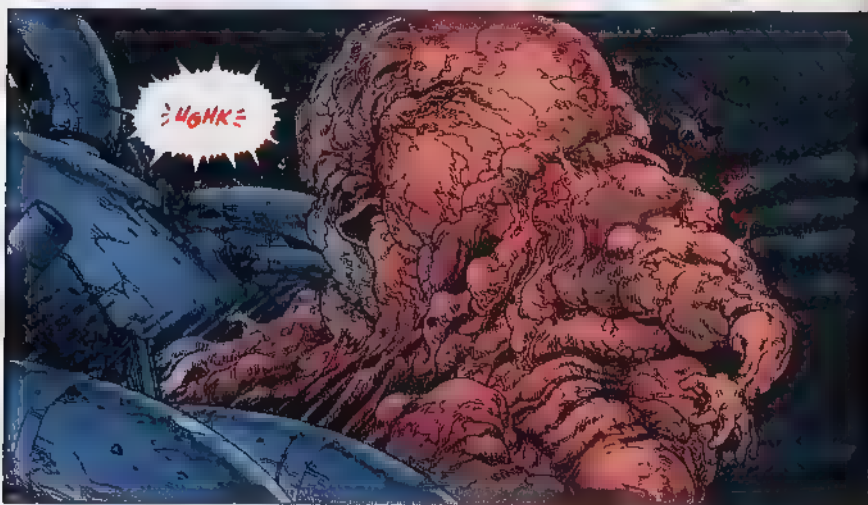
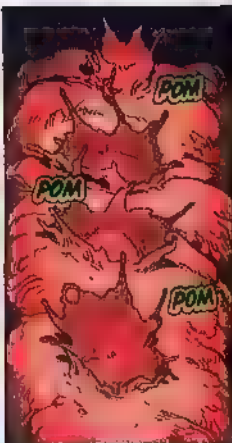
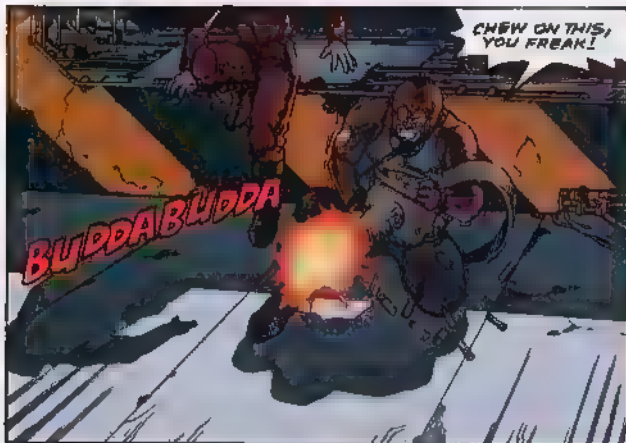
WHAT--?!

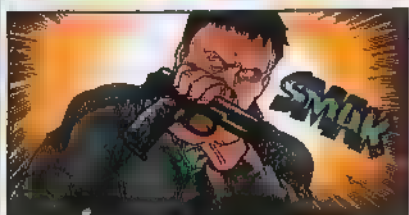
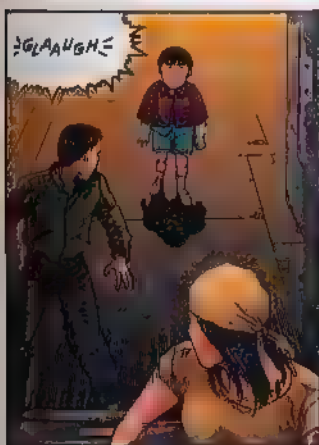
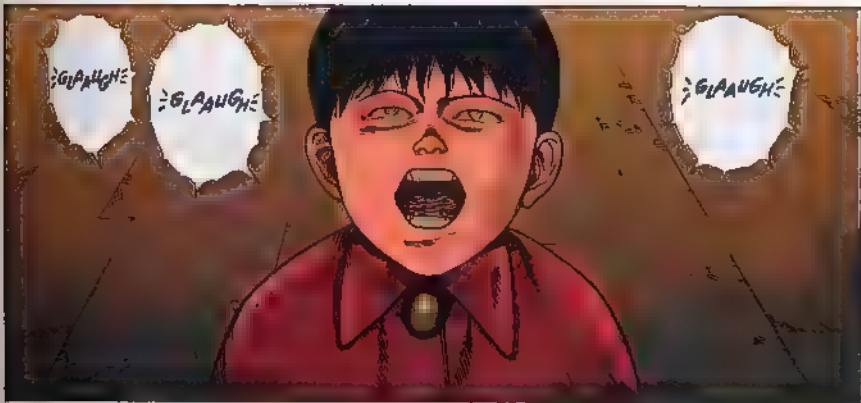


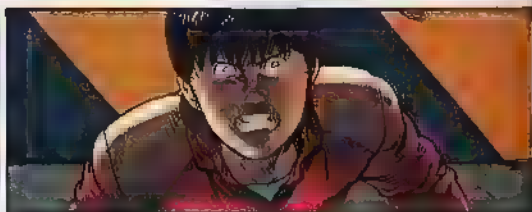
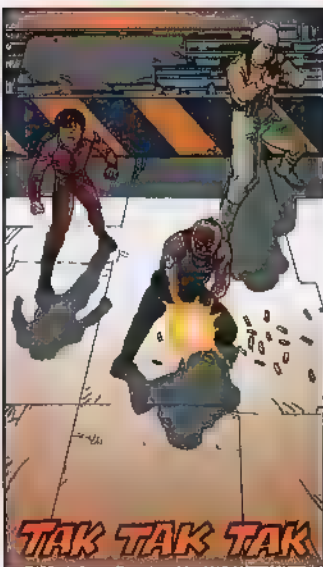
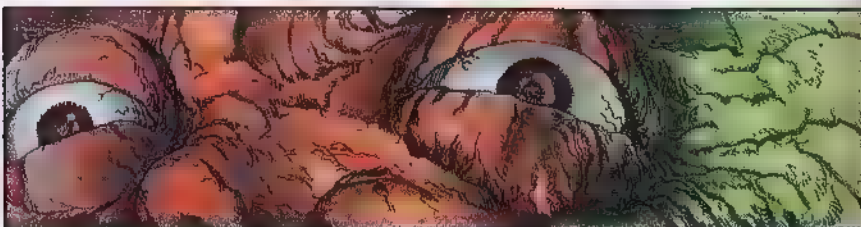
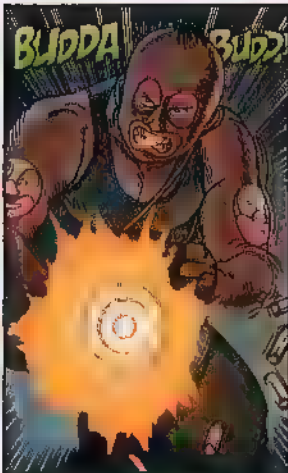
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ACCEPT
THIS!

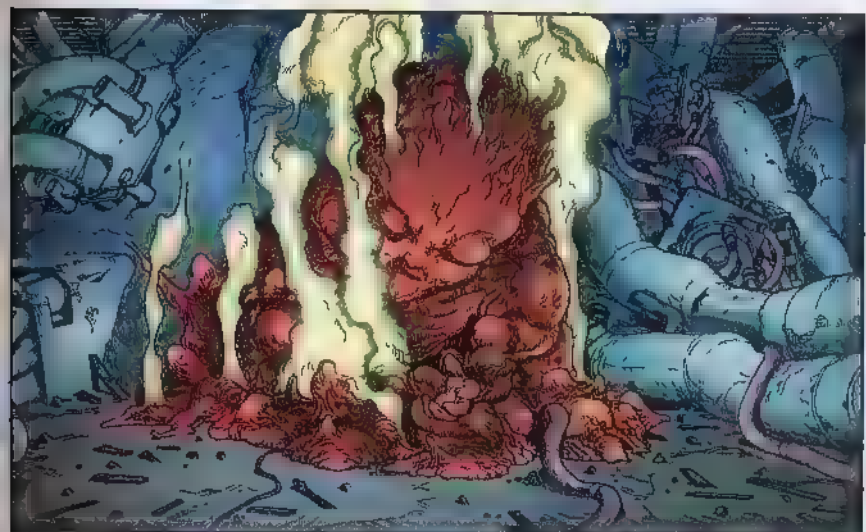
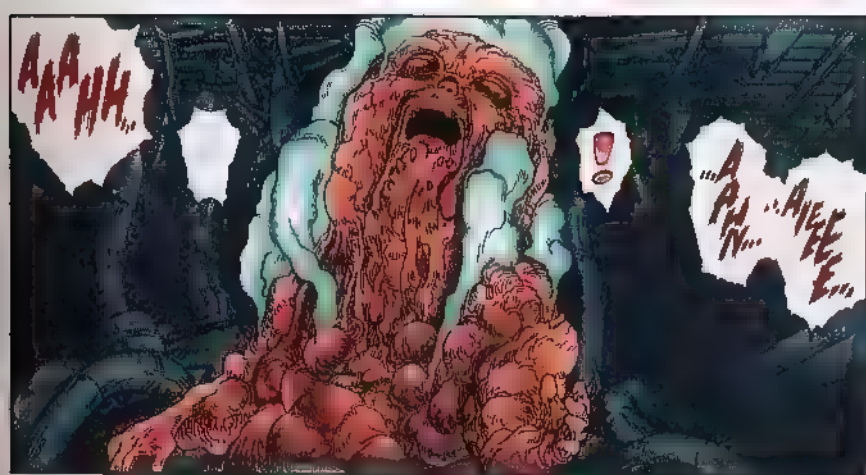


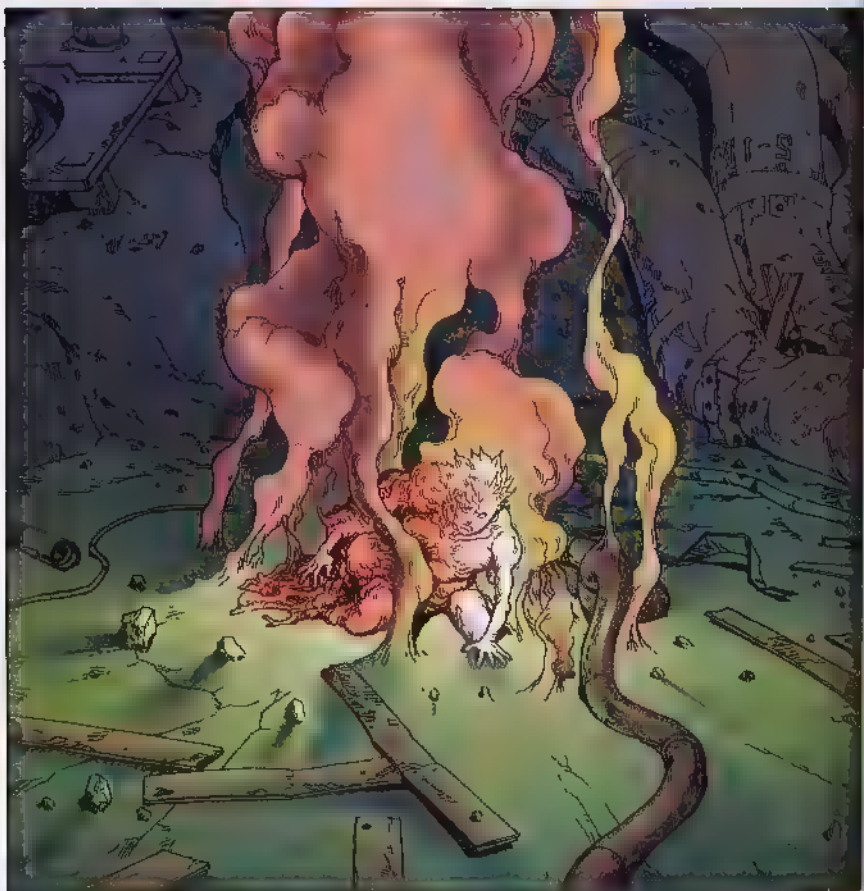
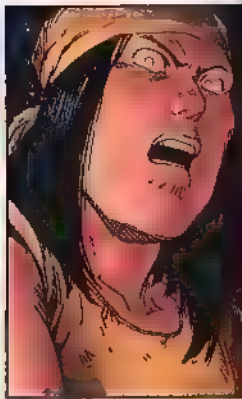
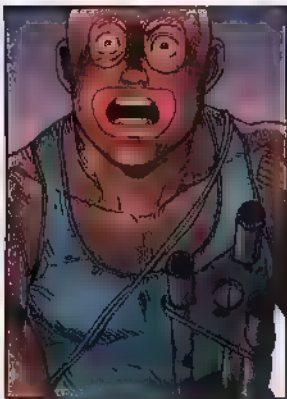
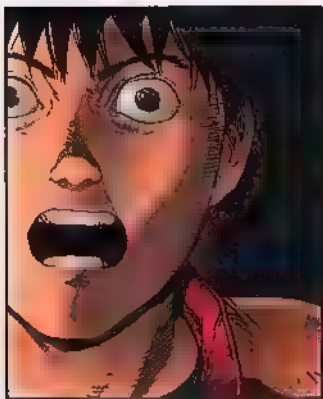
IT'S
NOT OVER
YET!











A close-up of a young man with dark hair and a wide-eyed, shocked expression. He has sweat drops on his face and his mouth is open in a gasp. The background is dark and indistinct.

TETSUO

A man in a red jumpsuit stands in a desolate, rocky landscape, looking down at a figure lying on the ground. The figure is wearing a blue and white outfit. The ground is covered in rocks and debris. In the background, there are more rocks and a small structure.

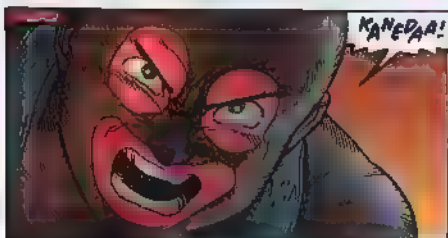
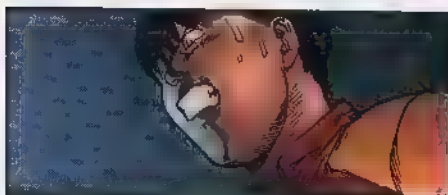
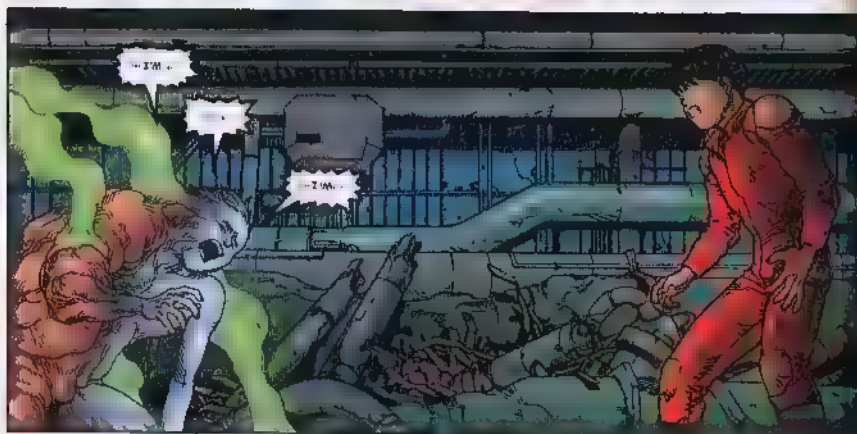
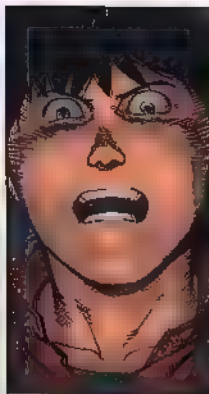
KA

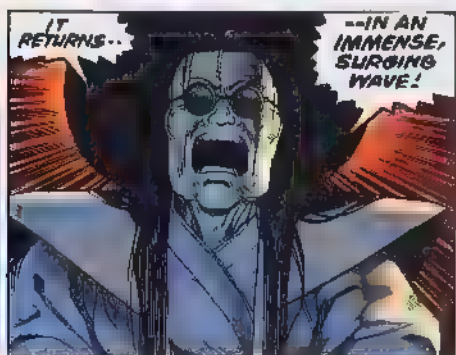
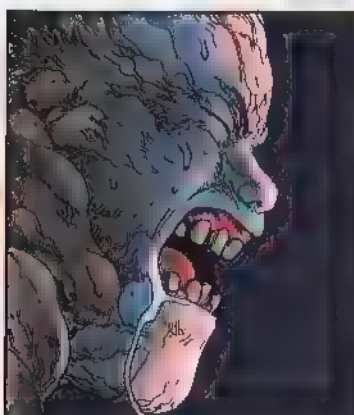
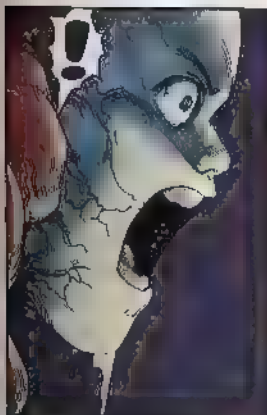
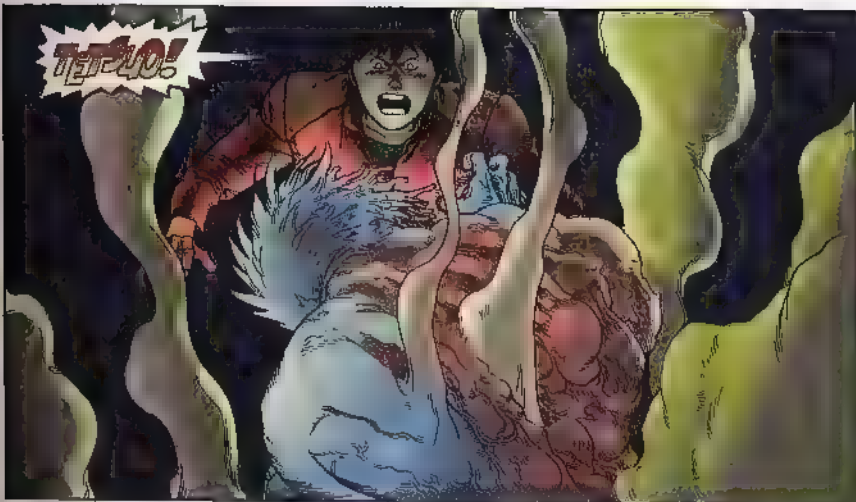
...NE

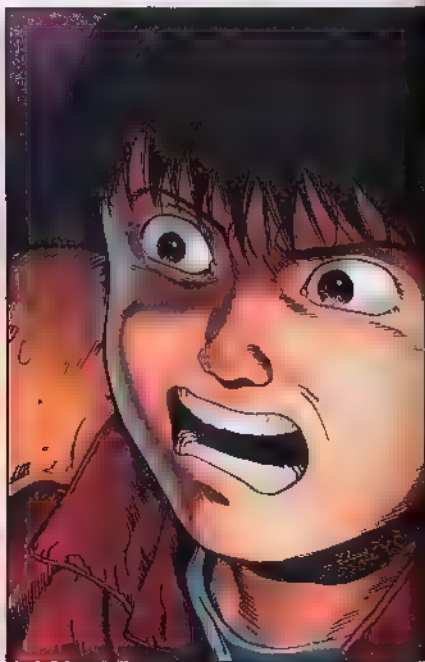
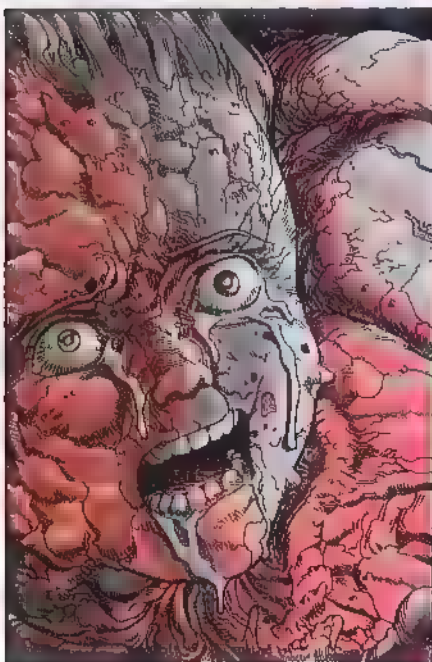
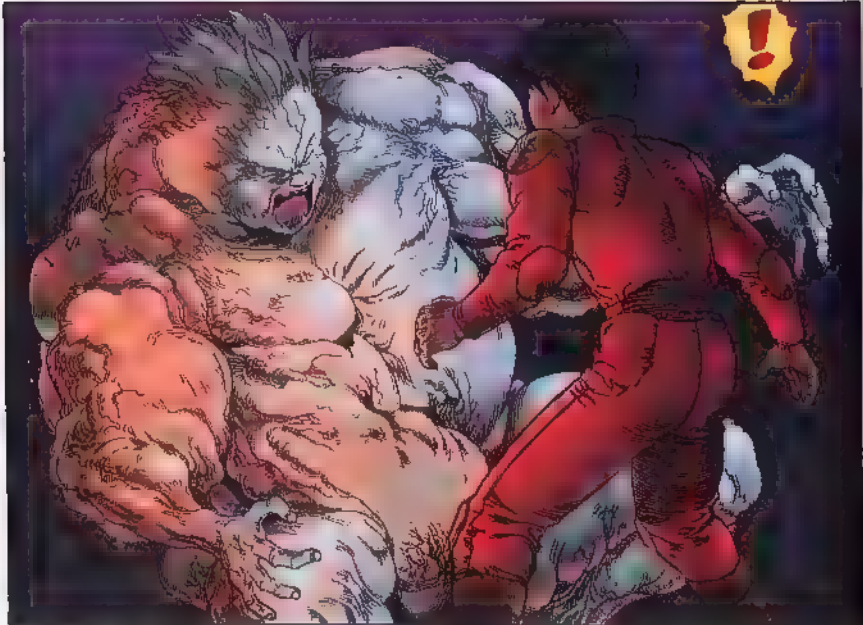
A close-up of a man with a shocked expression, looking upwards. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed look. The background is dark and indistinct.

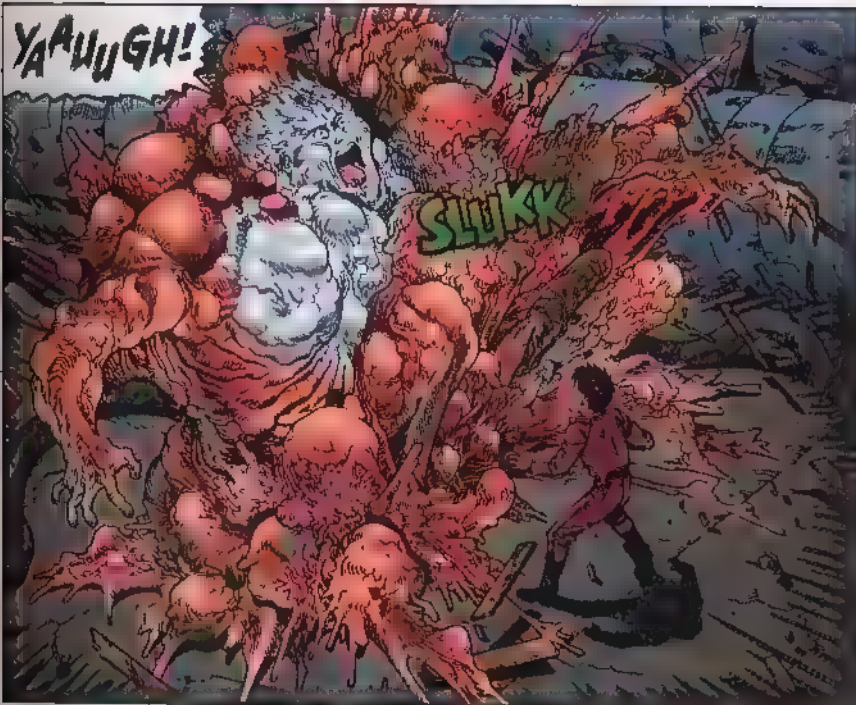
TETSUO...
YOU...

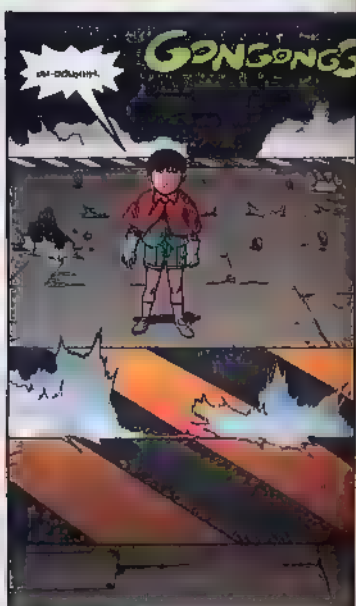
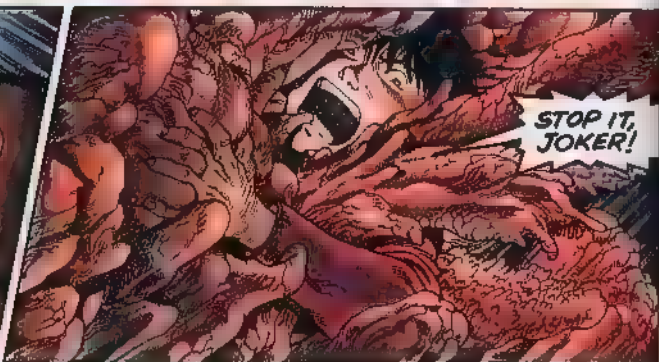
...Y-YOU...
YOU--!



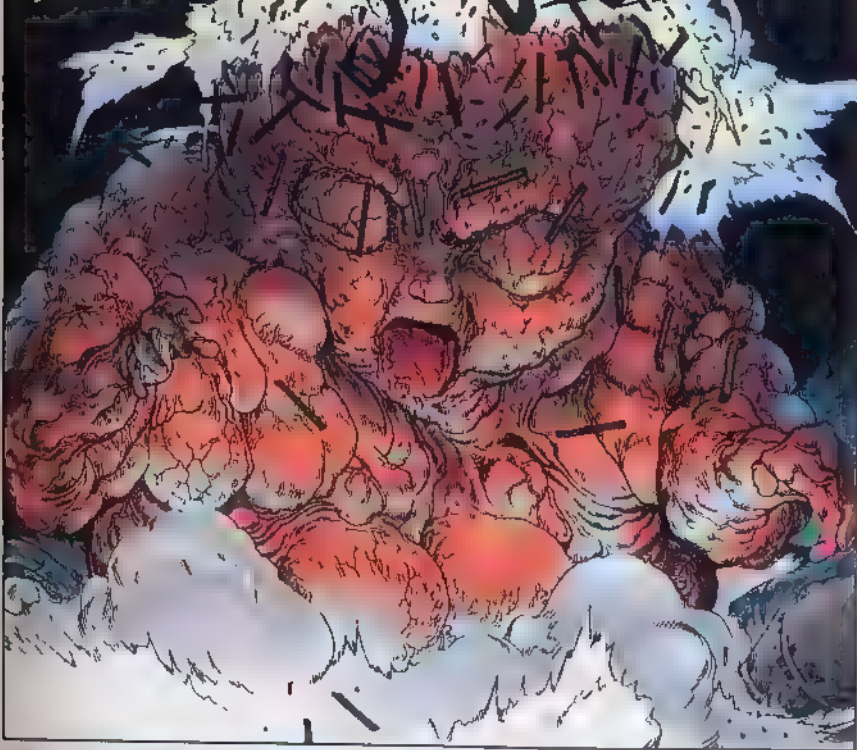


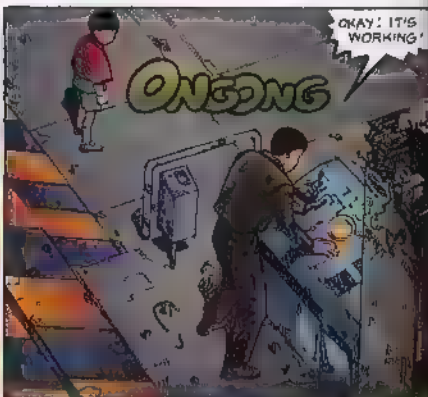
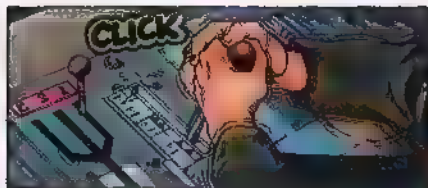


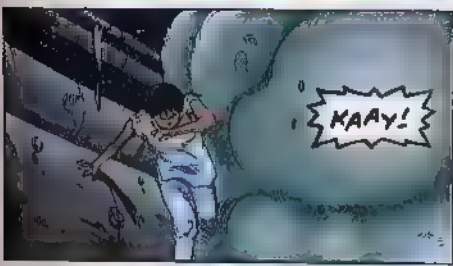
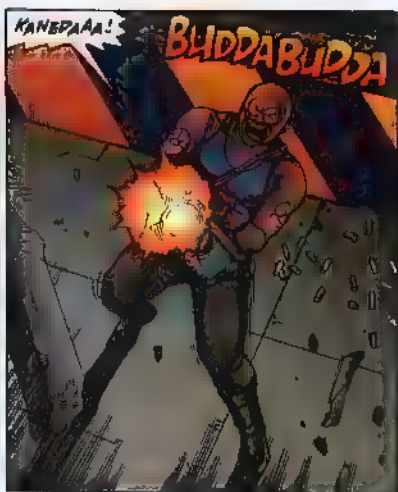


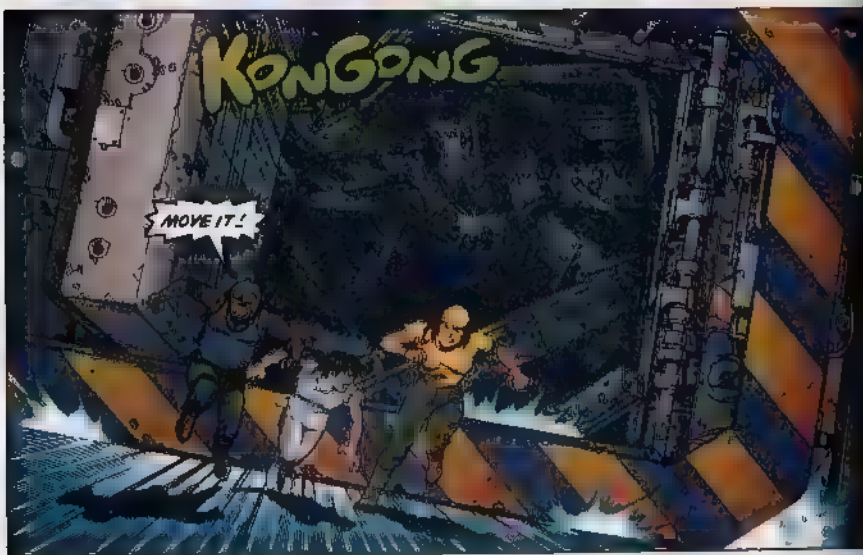
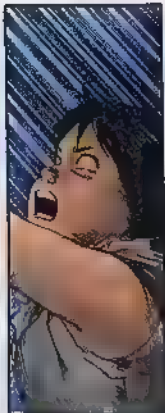


КРАДКА









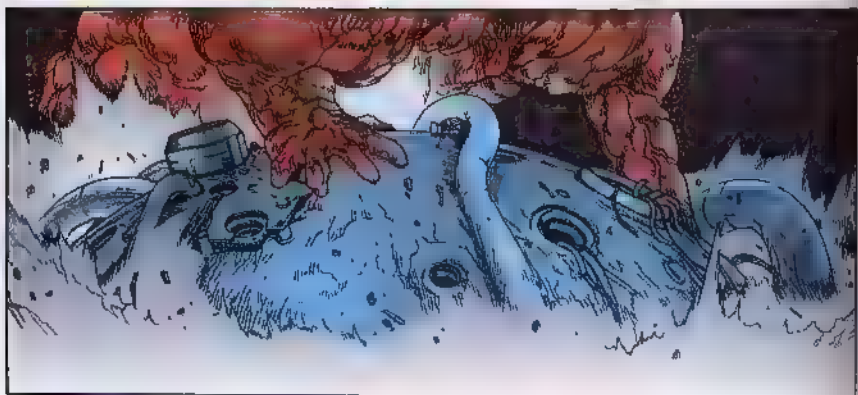
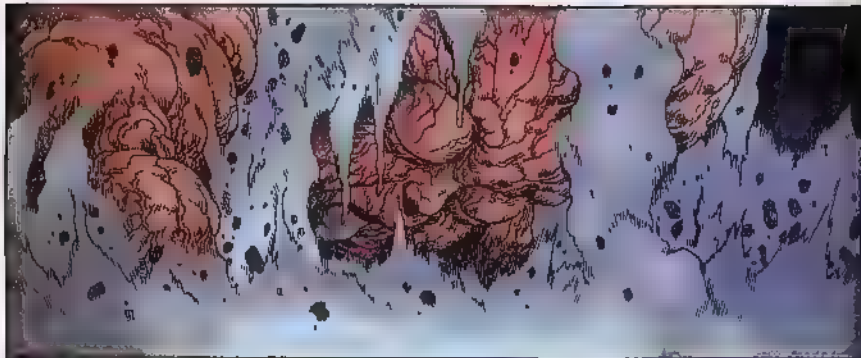
KONGGONG

GONGGONG

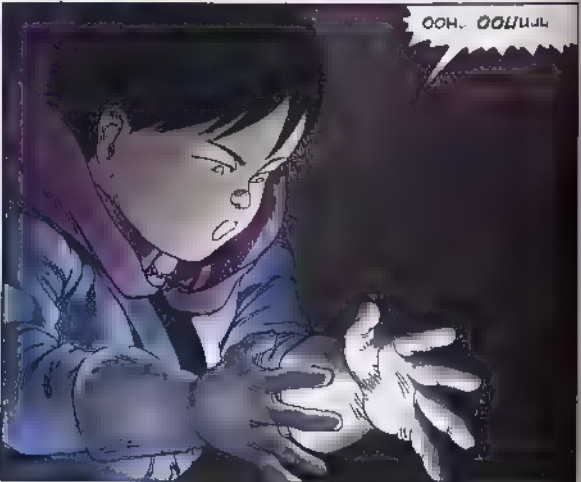
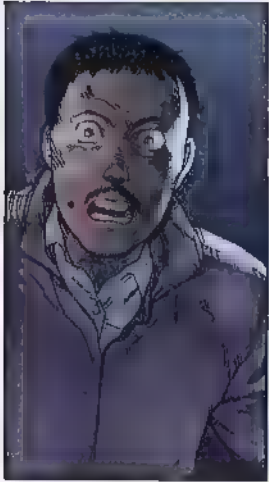
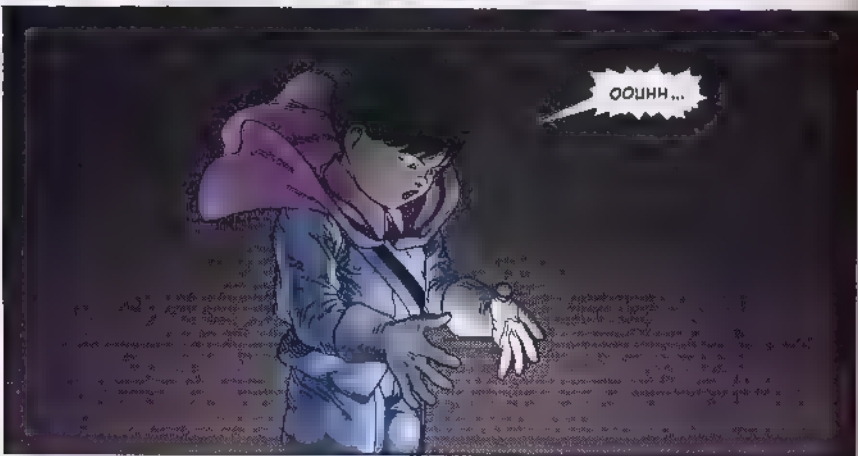
KONG KONG

KONG

KONG
KONGGONGGONG









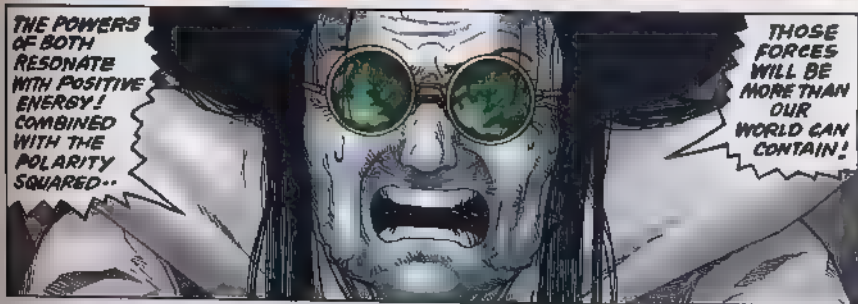
IT'S AKIRA!



WE HAVEN'T
YET FINISHED
WITH TETSUO!

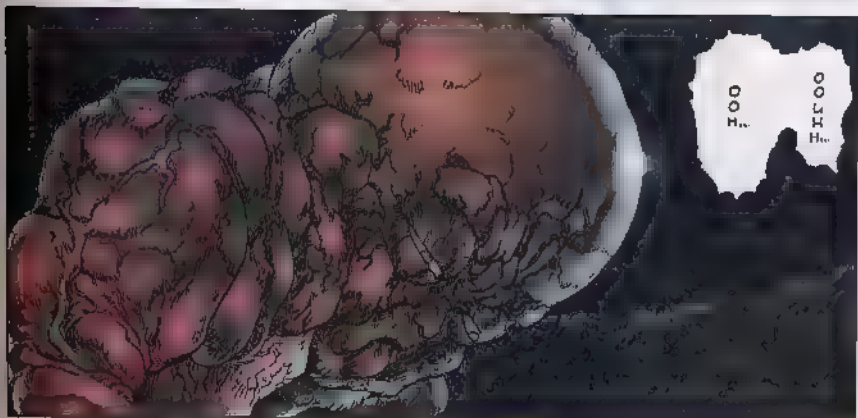


BEFORE
WE'RE
READY!!



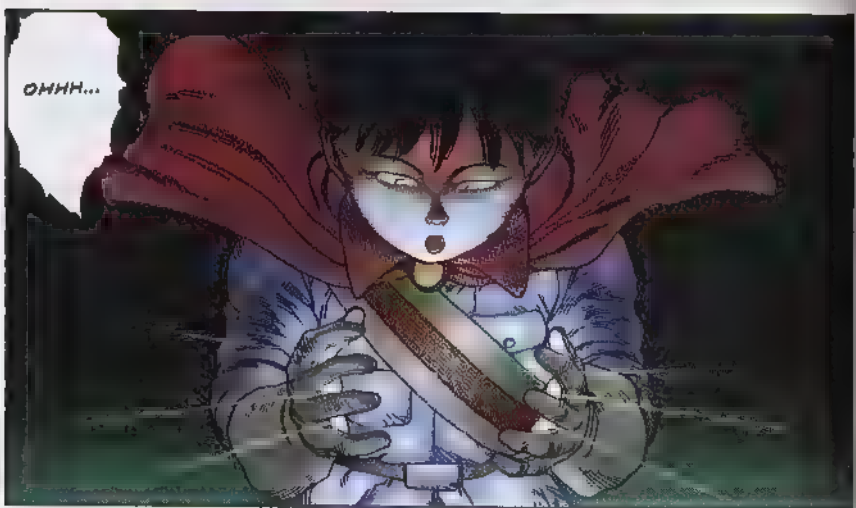
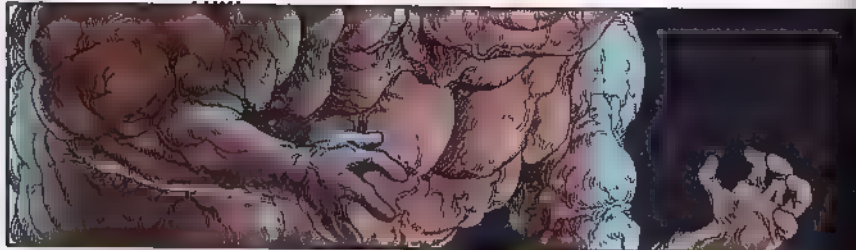
THE POWERS
OF BOTH
RESONATE
WITH POSITIVE
ENERGY!
COMBINED
WITH THE
POLARITY
SQUARED...

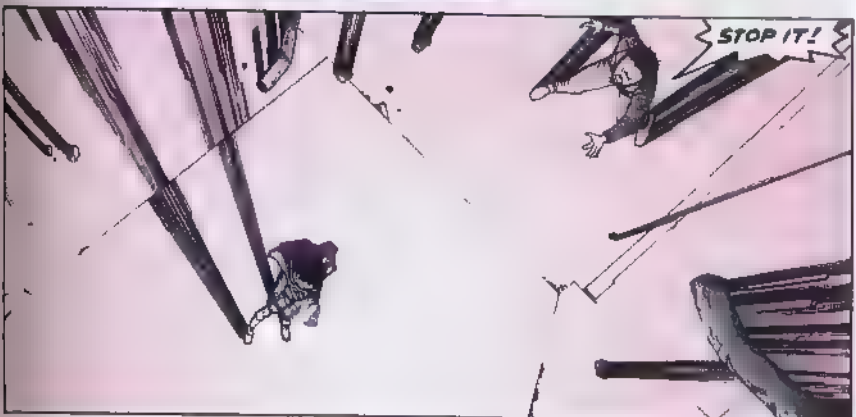
THOSE
FORCES
WILL BE
MORE THAN
OUR
WORLD CAN
CONTAIN!

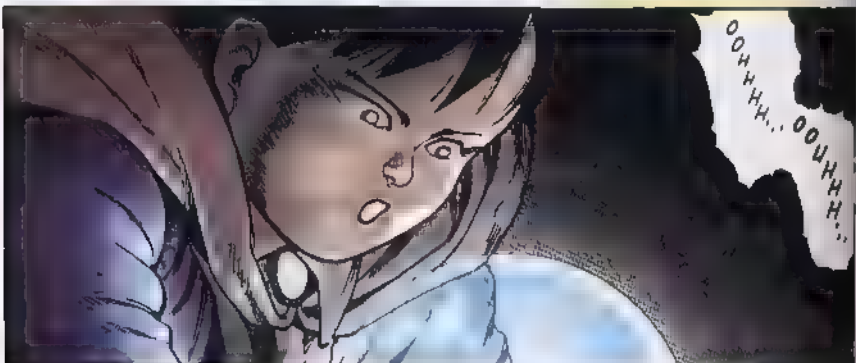
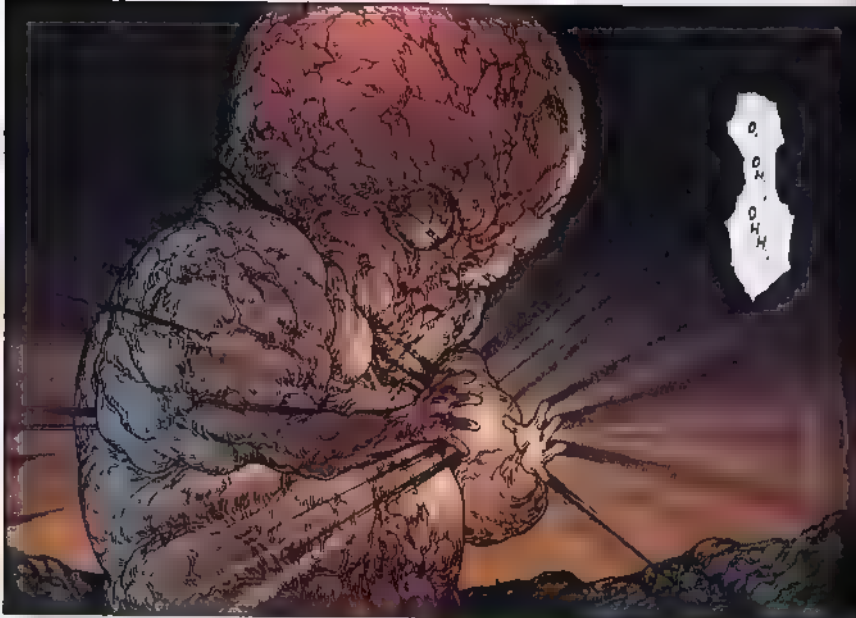


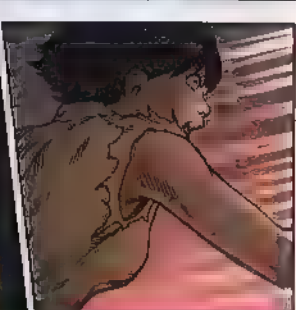
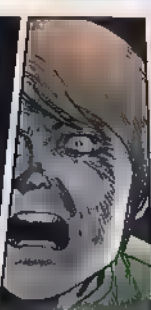
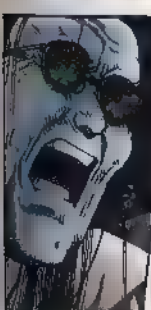
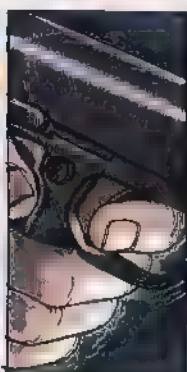
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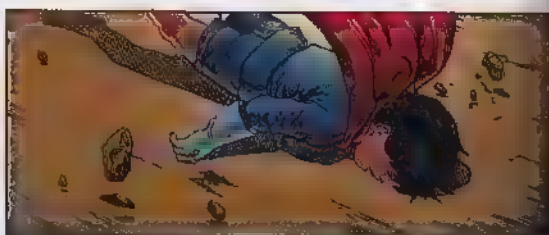
OOH...

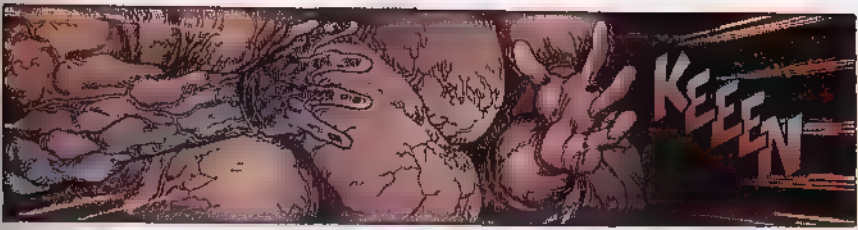


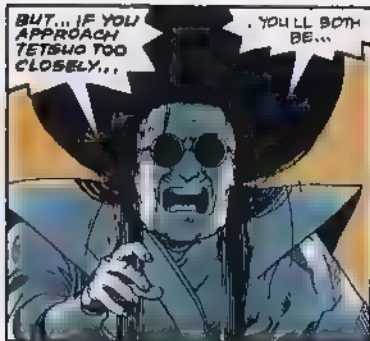




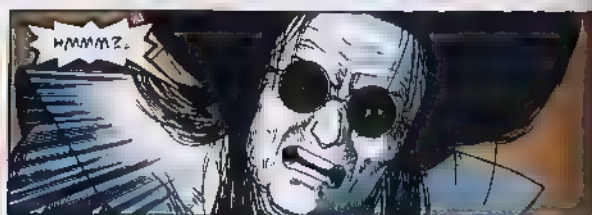
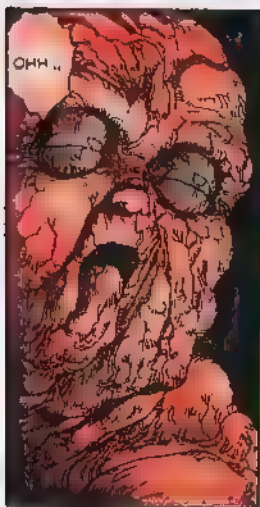
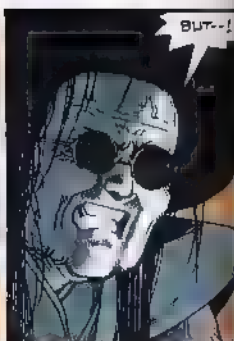


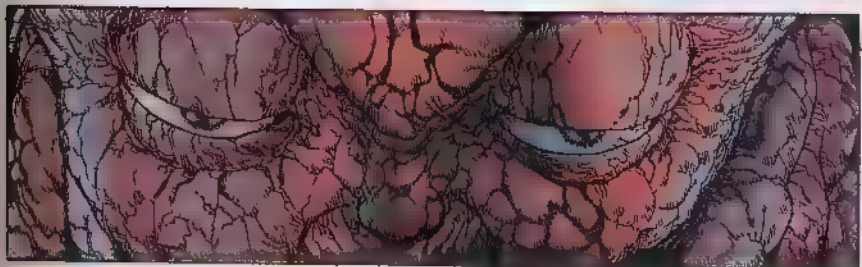
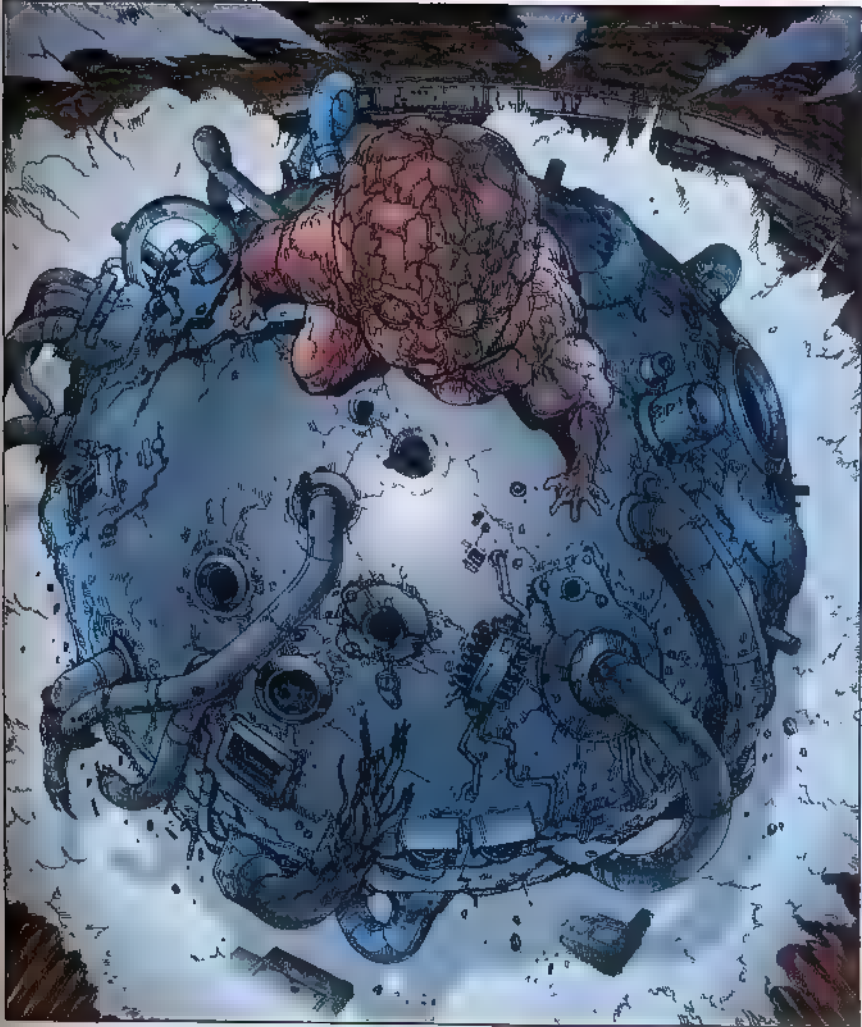


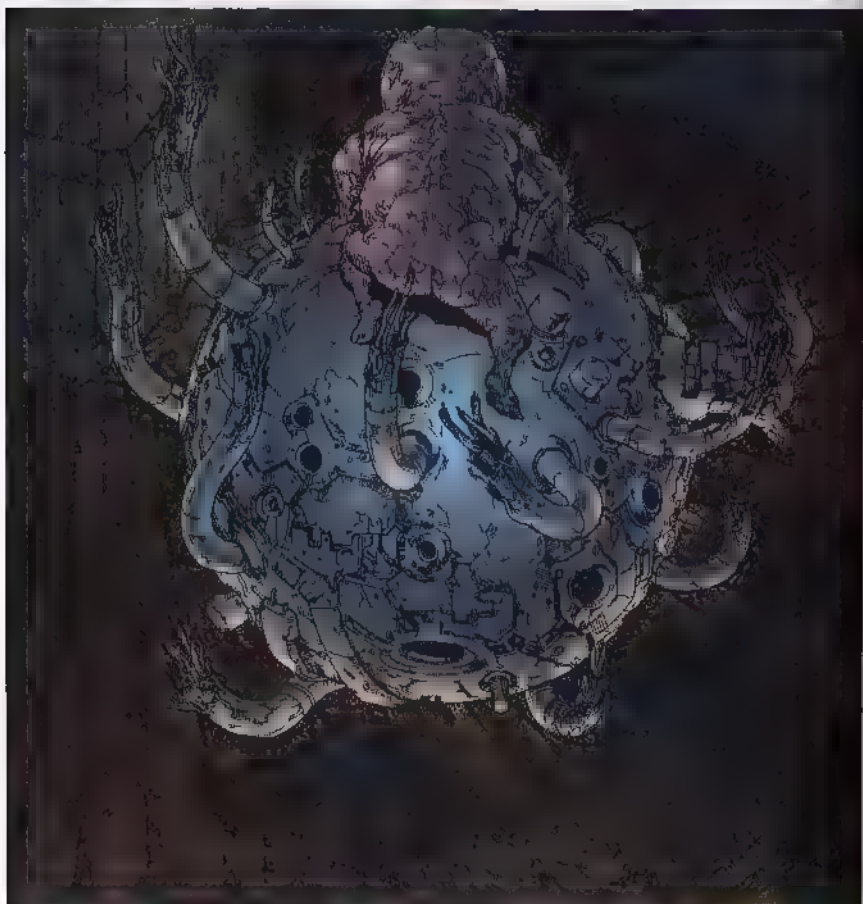
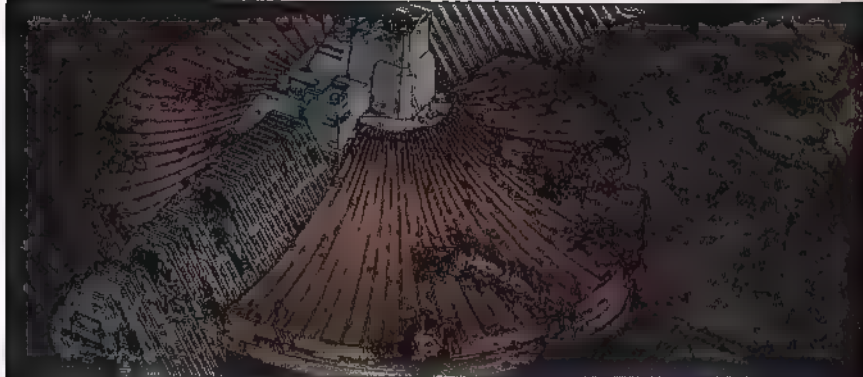


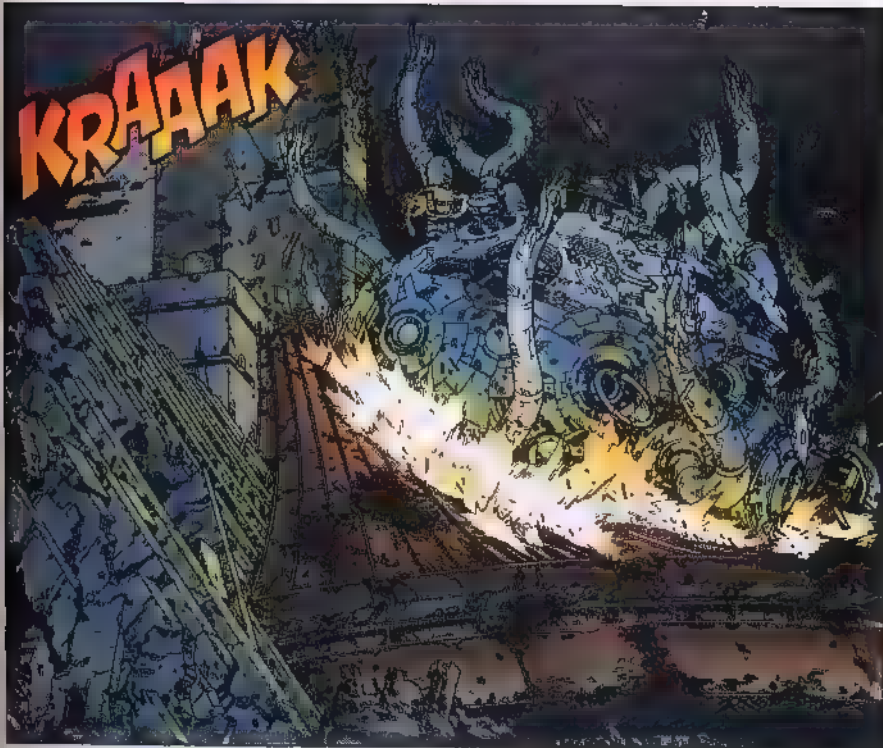


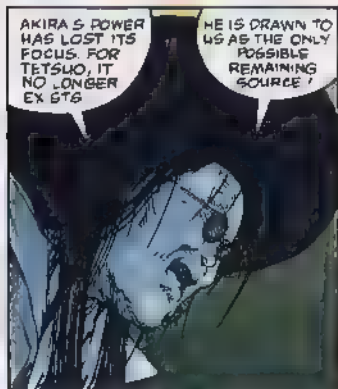
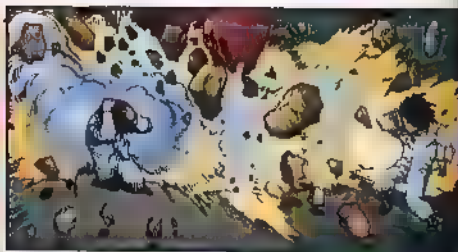
... YOU'LL BOTH
BE...











BUT...WHAT ABOUT YOU NUMBER 19?



THE REST OF US WILL STAY AND DEAL WITH TETSUO... WE'LL FINISH HIM...

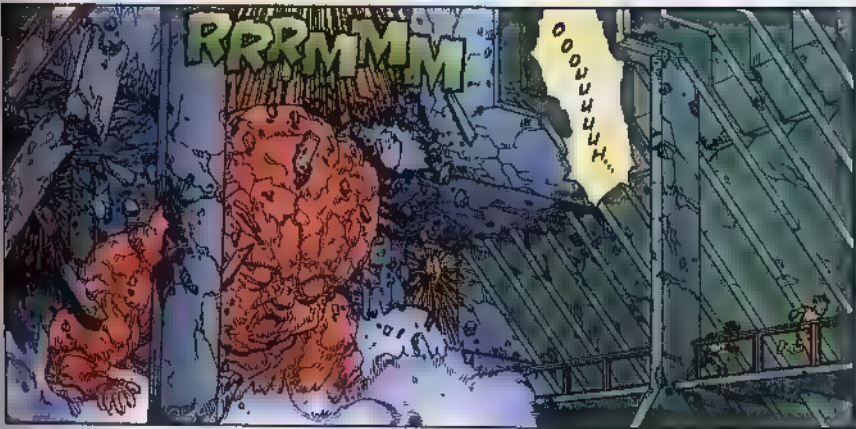


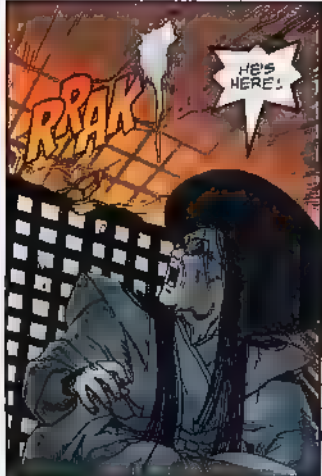
BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS...

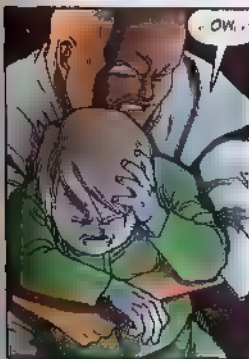
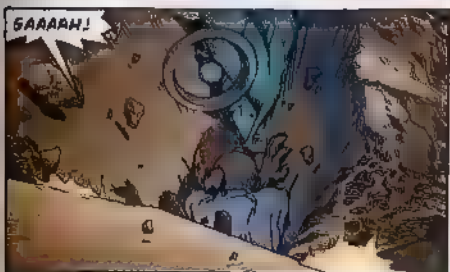
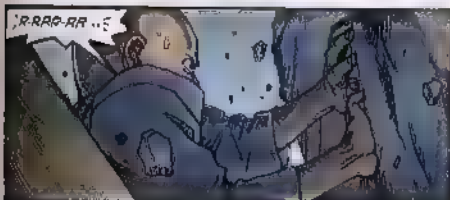
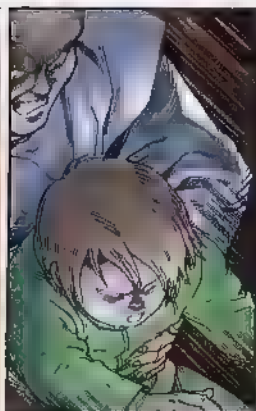
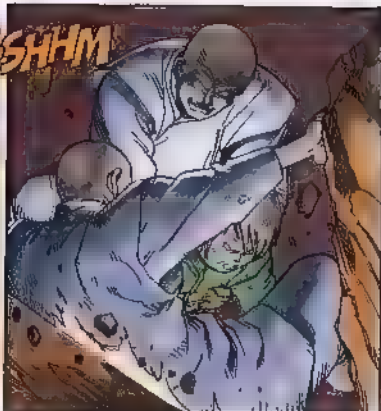
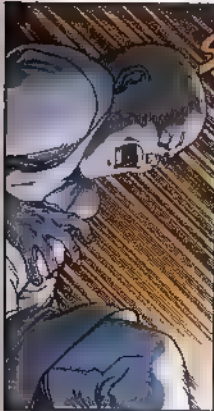


...YOU MUST FREE AK RAI'S POWER...

...EVEN IF WE FAIL, YOU MUST SUCCEED!





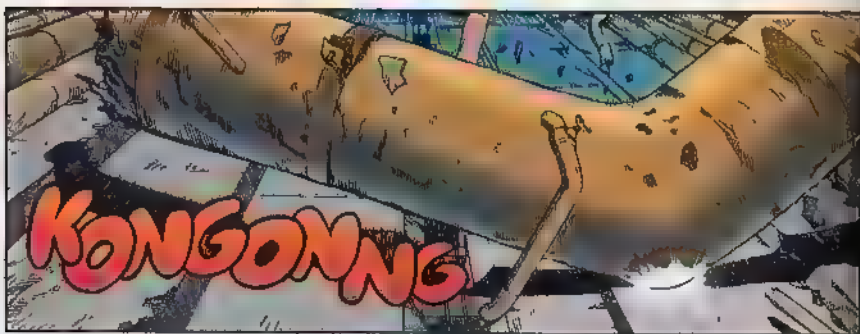




GONGONGG



WHERE ARE YOU,
KAY?



KONGONGG



GONGONGG

YIPE!

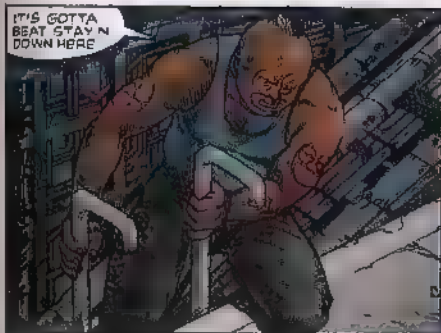
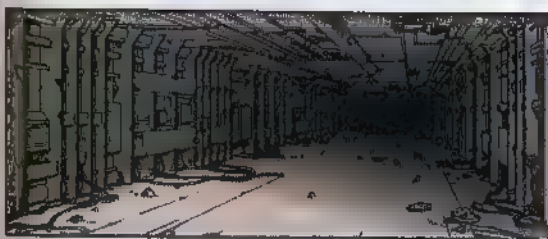
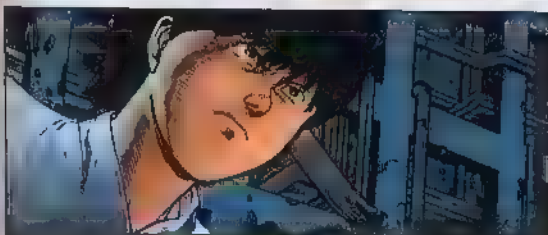
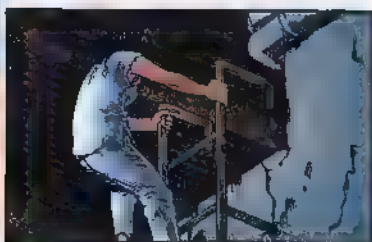
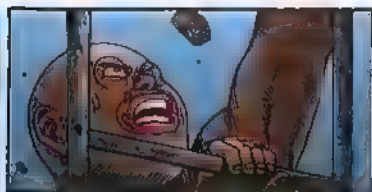


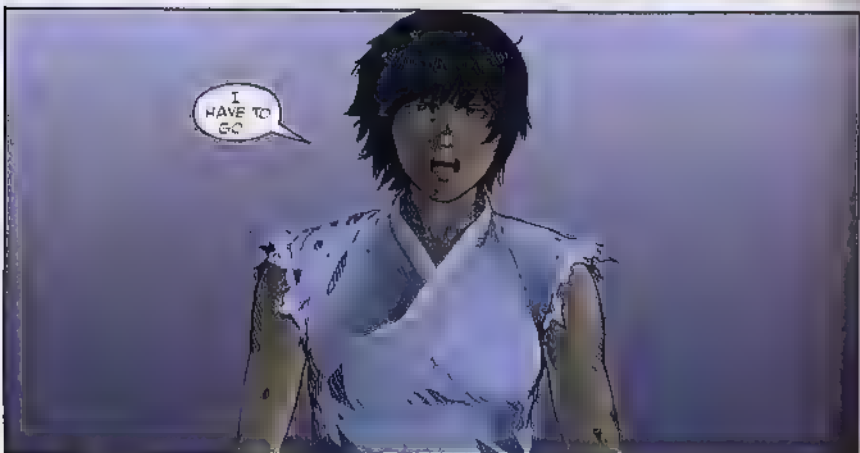
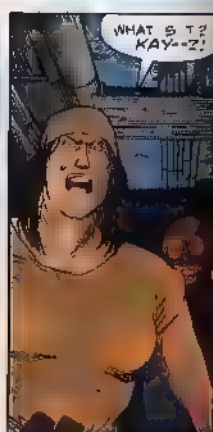
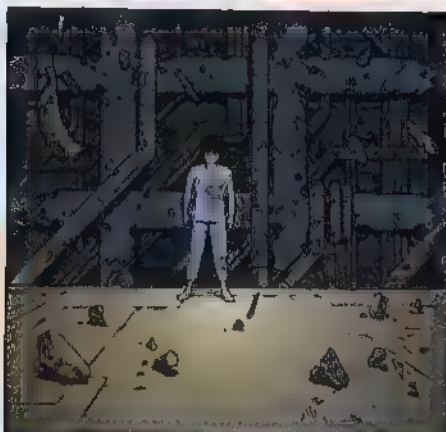
IT'S BAD
ENOUGH
WE HAVE
TO WALK
UP...

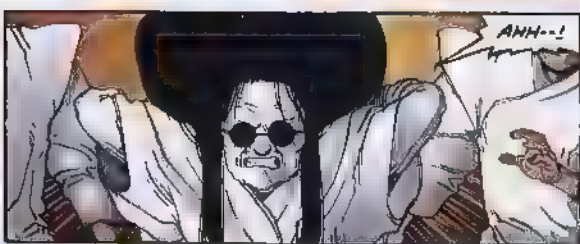
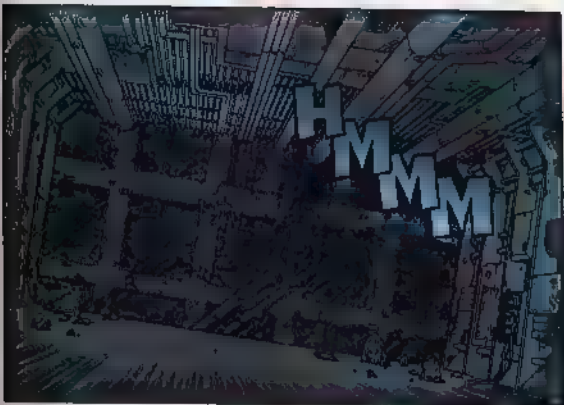
...WITHOUT ALL TH'S
CRAP FALLIN' DOWN
ON US!

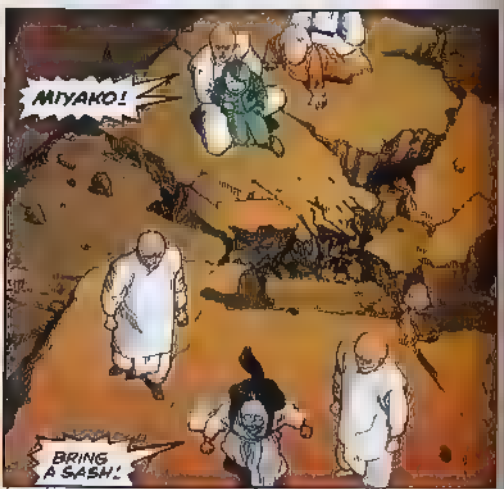
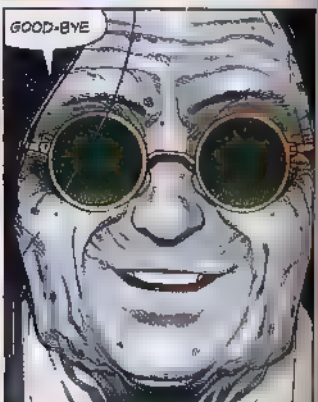
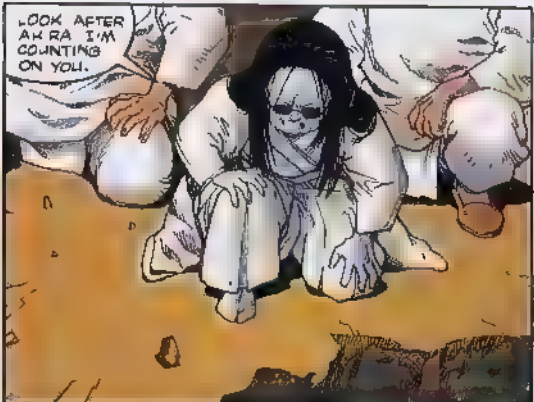
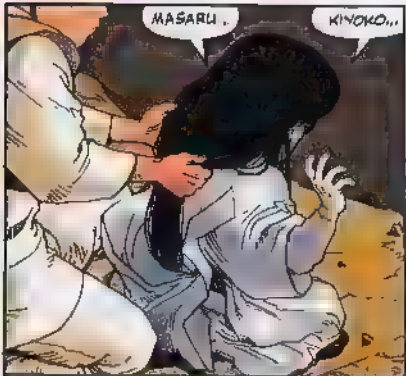
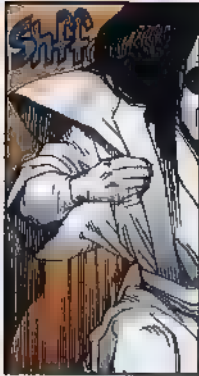


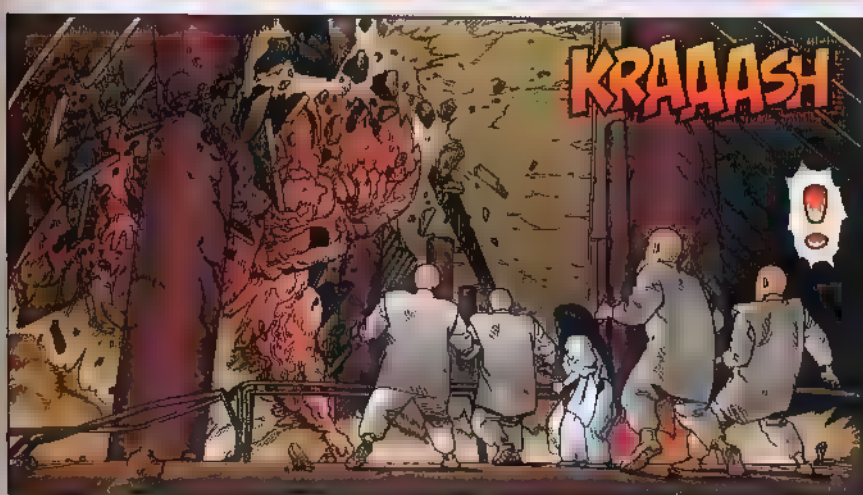
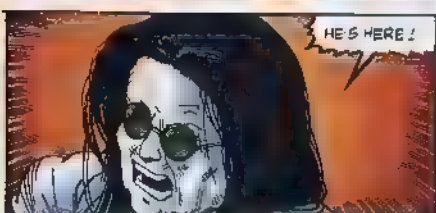
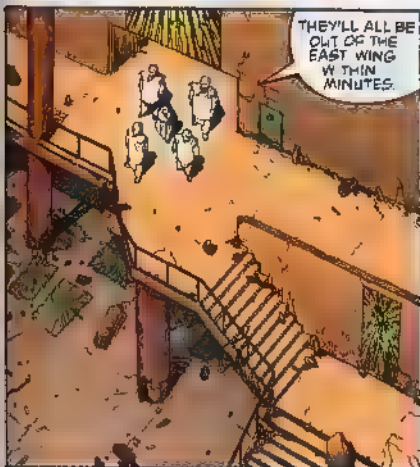
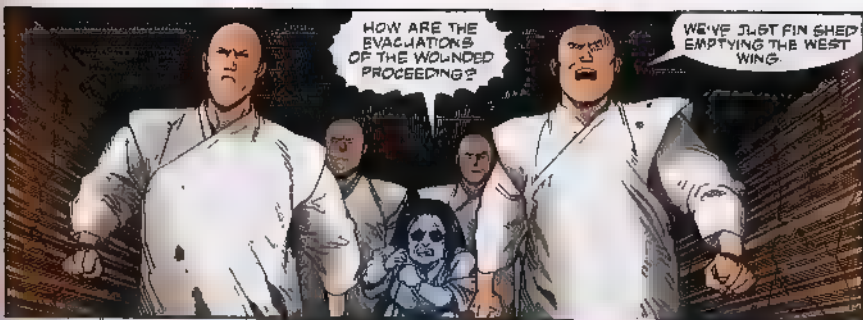
LOOK! A
LADDER!

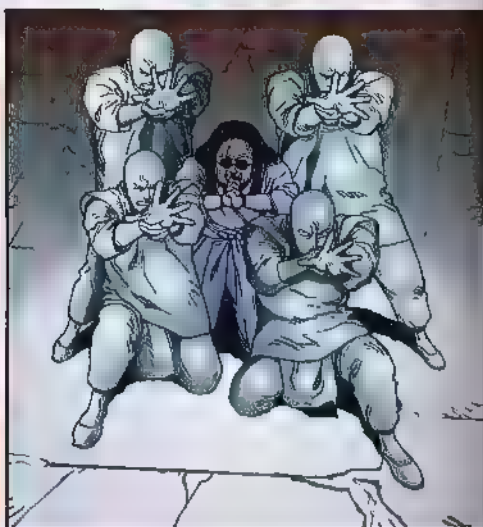








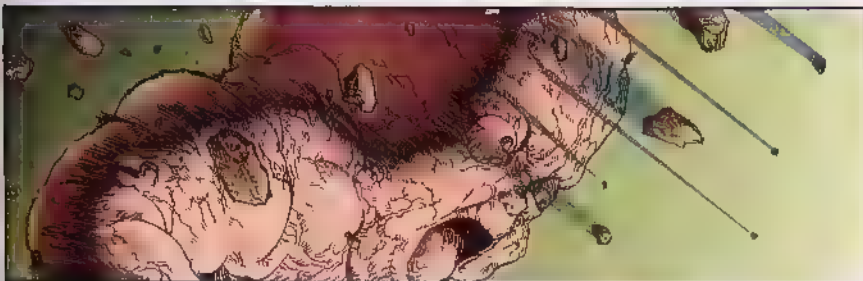




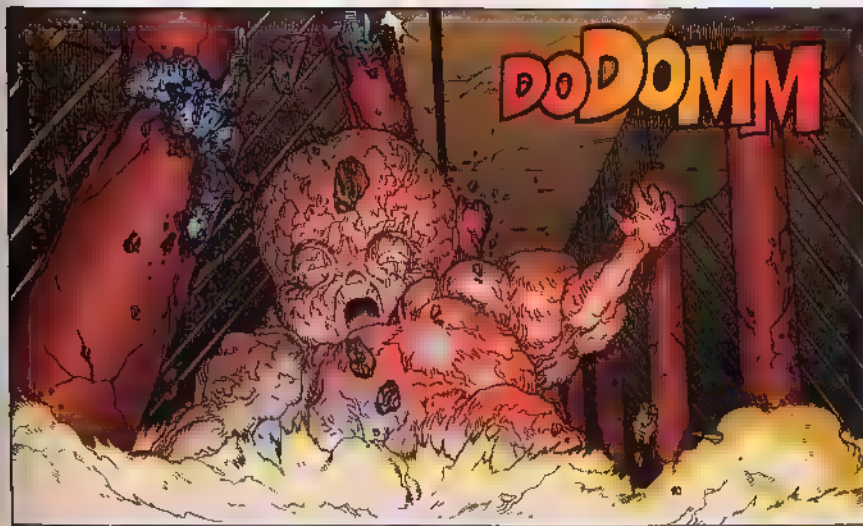
**RUMBLE
RUMBLE**

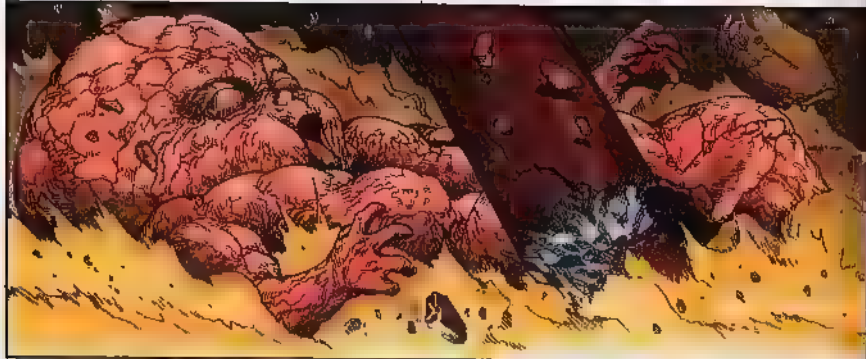


HAAAAH!

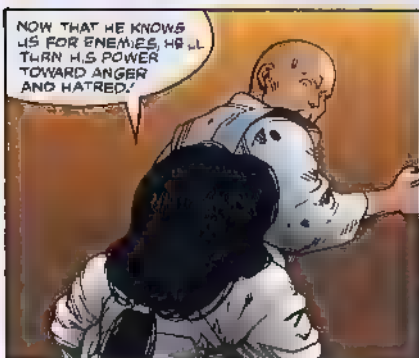


DO DOMM





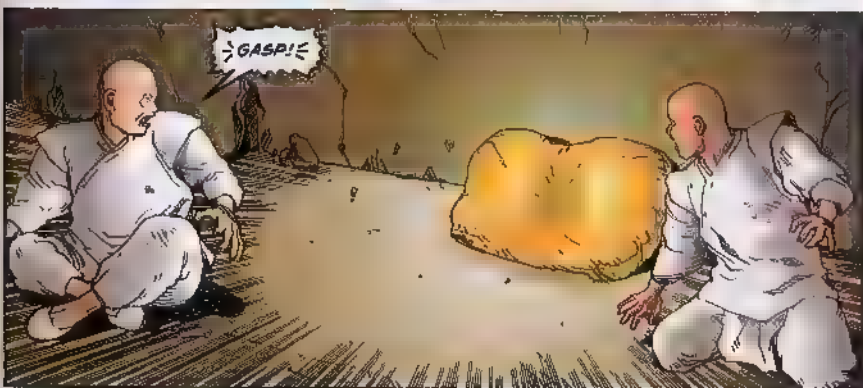
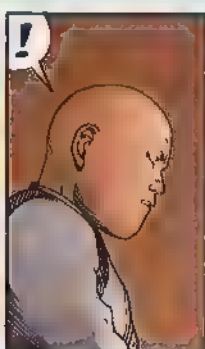
HE CAME HERE EXPECTING
TO FIND NO AID... BUT AFTER
A DOSE OF REALITY SUCH
AS WE'VE JUST SLAPPED
HIM WITH, HE'S BOUND
TO GROW ANGRY

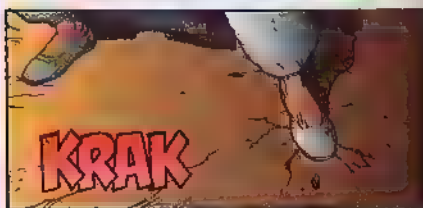


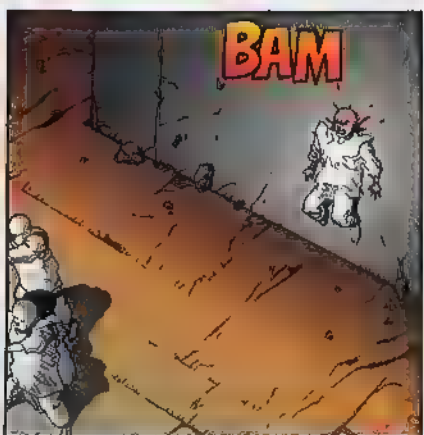
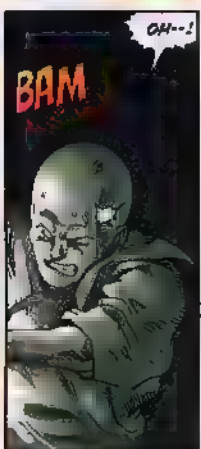
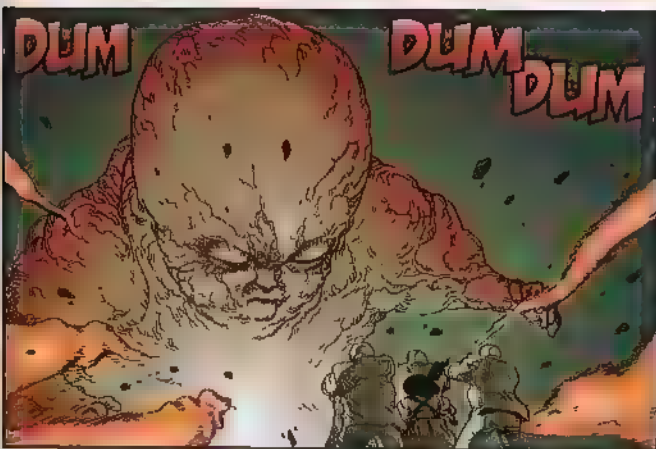
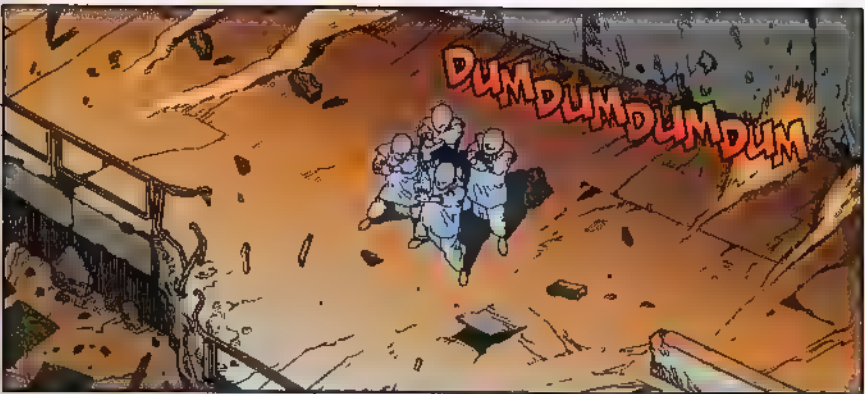
NOW THAT HE KNOWS
US FOR ENEMIES, HE'LL
TURN HIS POWER
TOWARD ANGER
AND HATRED.



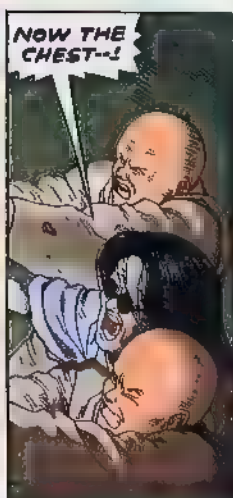
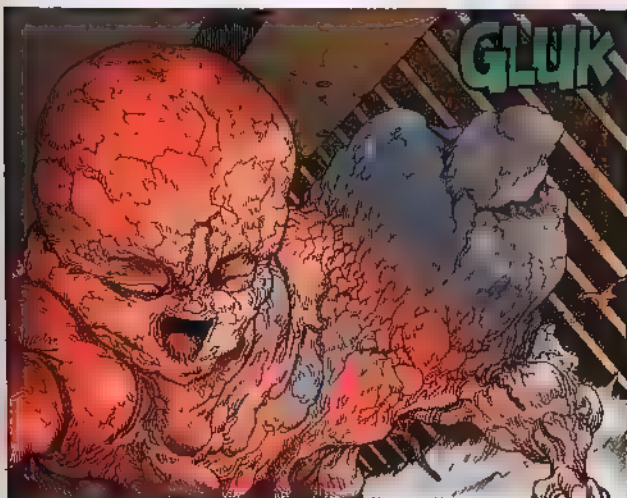
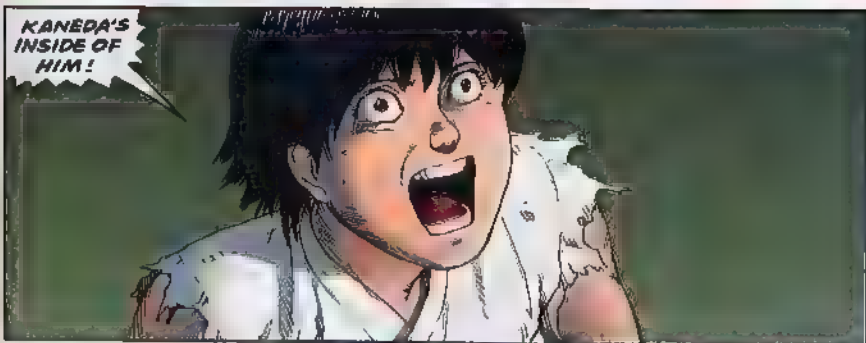
HIS ANGER IS
WHAT WE MUST
CONTROL. LET
HIM FEED HIS
POWER, AND WE
CAN CHANNEL
IT FOR
GOOD

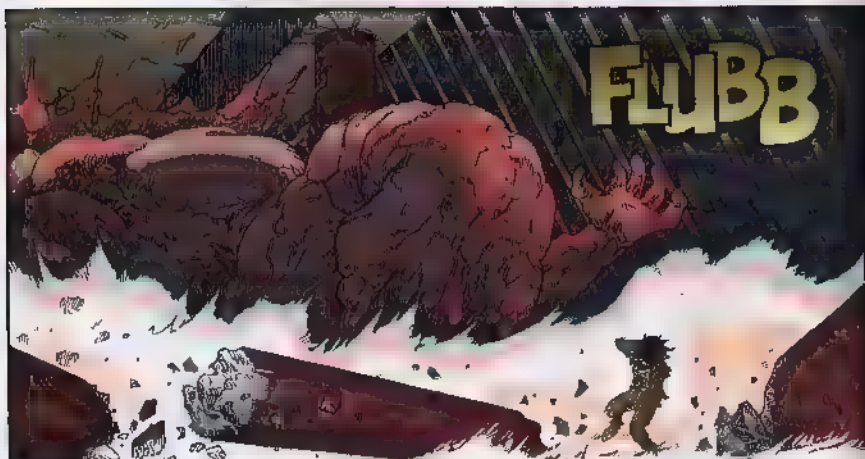
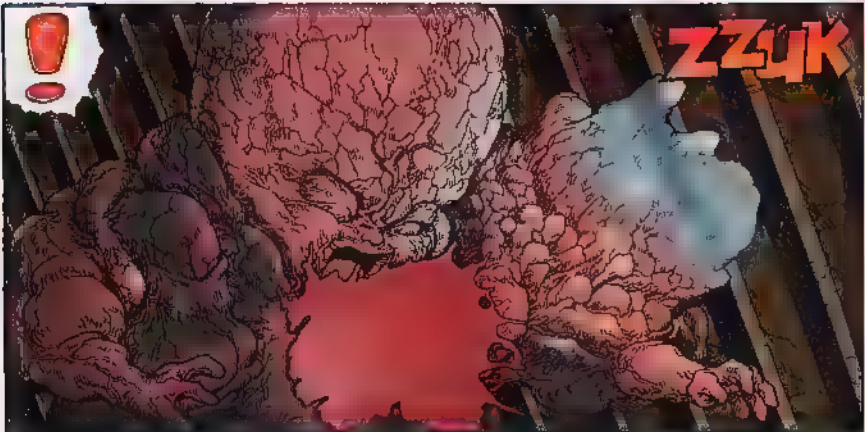


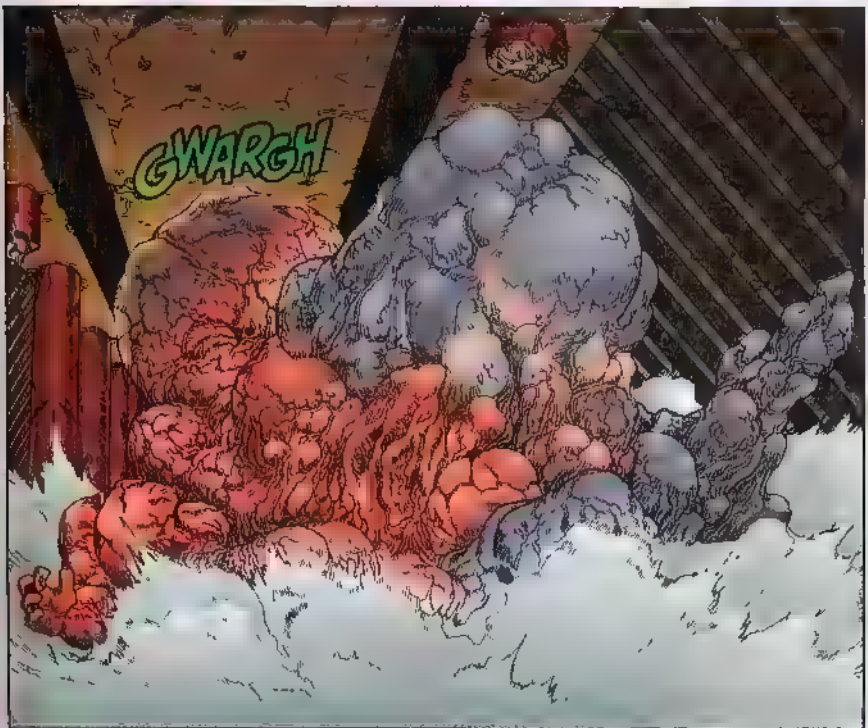
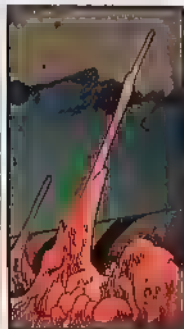
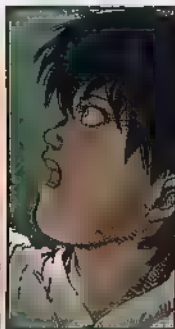
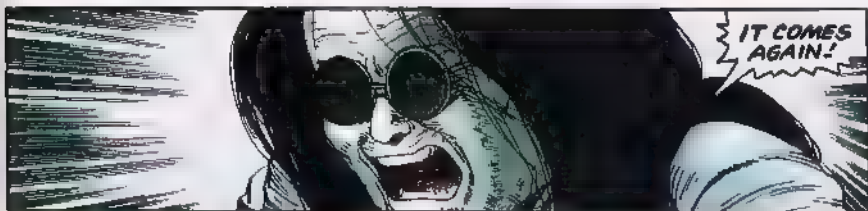


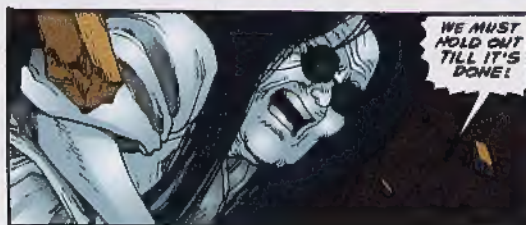
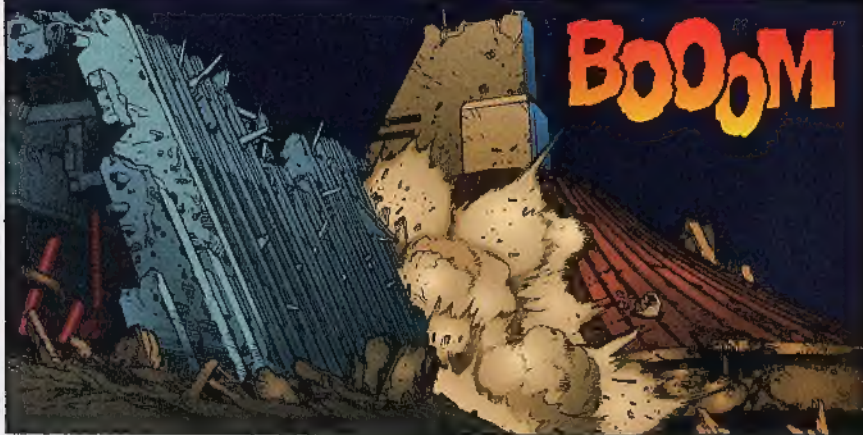


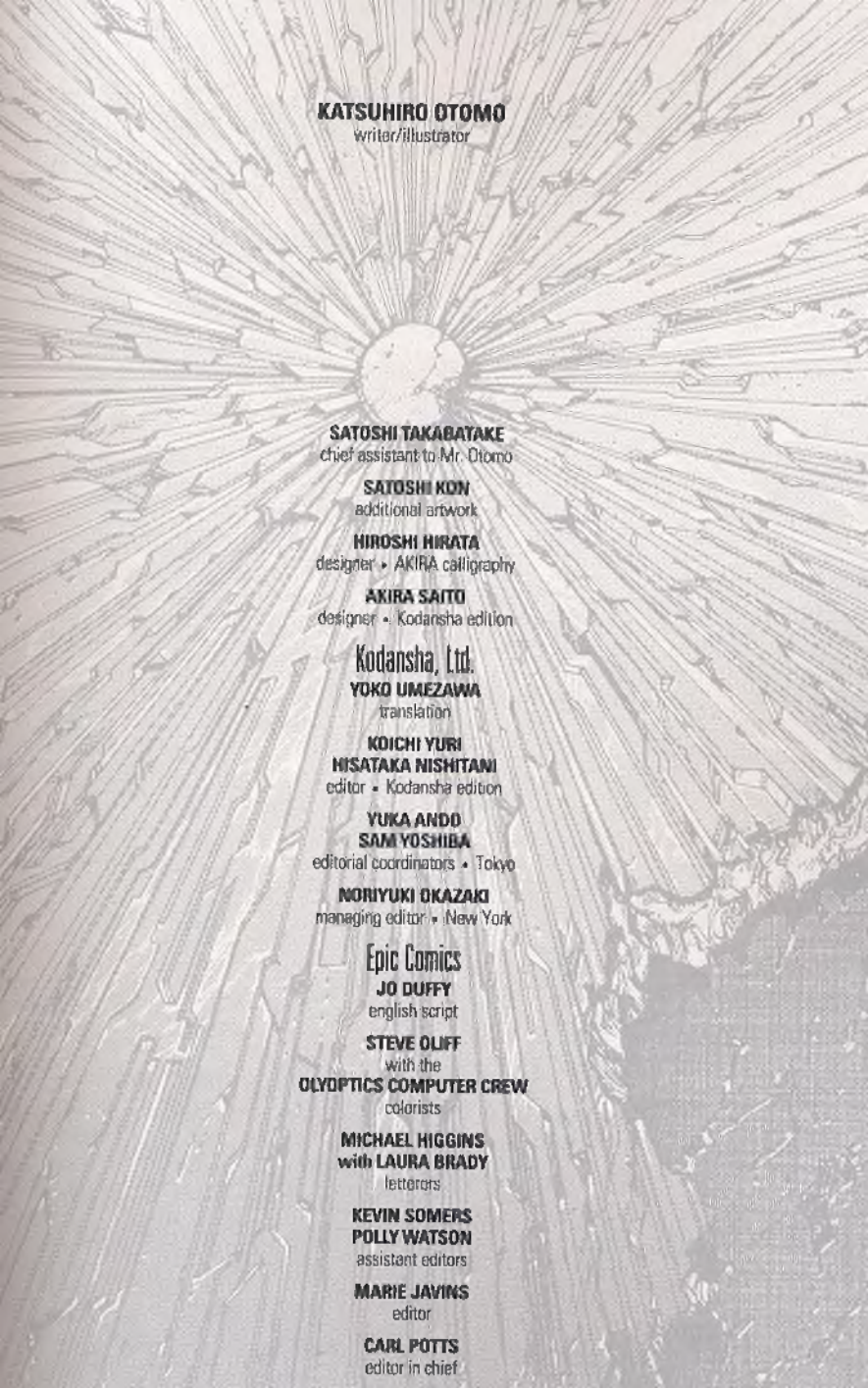












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P

ower is the name of the game of Neo-Tokyo, and God help any lost soul who gets in the way of the forces ravaging the future city. The mad Tetsuo turns on old friends, overwhelming with his raging energies and inhuman flesh. Backed into a corner, Lady Miyako must re-direct the psychic might of her followers from precious healing to desperate destruction. But it may finally be a military leader without a command who wins out this dark day, if the battered Colonel can find the strength to target a child Emperor named Akira...

...and do so simple a thing as pull a trigger.

KATSUHIRO OTOMO'S

AKIRA



DIRECT EDITION



7

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